

## Two-day deadline for union to lift Mercury blacking

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Trade union action aimed at blocking the Government's privatisation of state industry was declared unlawful yesterday by the Court of Appeal. Post Office Engineering Union (POEU) workers were given 48 hours to lift their "blacking" of Mercury Communications, the private telecommunications system.

Leaders of the union met in Blackpool last night to decide whether to obey the injunction granted by the Master of the Rolls, Sir John Donaldson, against their long-running industrial action. Despite left-wing resistance, indications were last night that the dispute will be called off.

Reversing the decision of the High Court, Sir John said: "There is massive evidence that the union was waging a campaign against political decisions to liberalise the industry and to privatise British Telecom... it is most unlikely that the union will be able to establish that there was at any material time a trade dispute between BT and its employees".

Lord Justice May, sitting with the Master of the Rolls, said: "This has been and is in substantial degree a political and ideological campaign seeking to maintain the concept of public monopoly against private competition".

Lord Justice Dillon concurred with the decision to allow Mercury's appeal against a provisional decision by Mr Justice Mervyn Davies that the POEU was engaged in a legitimate trade dispute and might win the substantive action for damages being brought by Mercury.

The immediate effect of the decision is that Mercury will be able to restart its programme of linking up with the British Telecom network which had been blocked by the post office engineers.

Mr Derek Evans, chief executive of Mercury Communications, said: "We are very pleased. The strength and unanimity with which the appeal judges have granted our injunction should leave no doubt in anyone's mind about the unlawfulness of the POEU action."

Those many customers who wish to subscribe to Mercury may now do so knowing they have the full backing of the law and that Mercury will contribute to the overall expansion of the telecommunications industry.

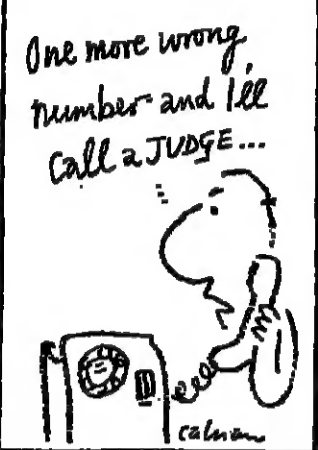
The union has been given leave to appeal to the House of Lords; if the union decides to proceed the appeal is likely to be heard within three weeks. Because the status of industrial action over the impact of privatisation may be held to affect all unions the TUC is likely to fund any such appeal on behalf of the whole labour movement.

Employers greeted the court decision with relief last night after the confusion created by the earlier ruling. Sir Terence Beckett, director-general of the CBI, said: "This case provides the first evidence that the amendments introduced by the Employment Act, 1982, on what constitutes a trade dispute can provide effective remedies against forms of industrial action which are now unlawful."

The Institute of Directors also warmly welcomed the decision. An official said: "We are pleased that there will be no hold-up in the government privatisation programme."

Union leaders committed to fighting the "hiving off" of state industry and services to the private sector had been hoping to use Mr Justice Mervyn Davies's judgment as a justification for industrial action to prevent privatisation on the ground that they were seeking to save jobs.

In the High Court, the POEU pleaded immunity from civil action, claiming that it was



The Princess of Wales arriving at the Guards' Chapel in London yesterday, where a memorial to the 42 Welsh guardsmen killed in the Falklands conflict was dedicated. The Princess of Wales, Colonel of the Welsh guards, read the funeral oration from Pericles.

## Americans pinpoint Syrian artillery

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

With Lebanon daily awaiting the "retaliation" America says it will take for the suicide bombing of its Marine headquarters in Beirut, a party of US Marines has made a secret trip into the mountains, high above the Lebanese capital, to pinpoint Druze and Syrian artillery positions which have been shelling their compound near the airport.

Two Jeep-loads of Marines carrying binoculars and cameras visited a remote Lebanese Army observation post on a cliff edge at the village of Beit Meri within the past four days and spent more than half an hour, marking out the Druze and Syrian gun pits, clearly visible across the gorge of the Metn river.

The Marines, usually remarkably open about their activities in Beirut, made no announcement of their reconnaissance trip, though a Marine spokesman confirmed to *The Times* yesterday that two Jeeps filled with men did travel to Beit Meri to carry out artillery observation, claiming this was done on behalf of the Lebanese authorities.

"We have cooperated with them in that."

However, the Lebanese Army is perfectly capable of carrying out its own targeting, and military sources in Beirut believe the Marines were in fact charting possible targets for American air strikes or naval bombardment.

Some sources say such strikes could come within the next 48 hours. The Marines' principal point of interest was the village of Dhour Abadiye that nestles 3,000 ft up the mountains south of the Metn.

Lebanese Army observers have noted that most of the long-range missiles and heavy artillery shells fired at Beirut airport and the adjacent Marine compound over the past two months have come from batteries just outside this village.

While it might be possible for warships to hit the area, the steeply sloping nature of the terrain suggests the Americans might well have to hit the guns from the air, if they wish to have any effect. Some Marines certainly believe this is the only efficient method of destroying the artillery.

At its observation post, not far from the classical ruins that once made Beit Meri a tourist resort, Lebanese troops say they could positively identify the recent source of fire in the exercise.

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## Nine new 'stars' found by satellite

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The discovery of nine mysterious objects which are baffling astronomers was announced yesterday by the Rutherford-Appleton laboratory at Chilton, Oxfordshire.

The "stars" were recorded by the satellite IRAS, which carries a unique type of telescope, whose infra-red detector sees radiation from cold masses of gas filtered out by the atmosphere.

Twice a day its observations are relayed to the radio astronomy observatory at Chilton as it passes 900km above the countryside.

The telescope of IRAS, which stands for Infra-red Astronomical Satellite and was launched in January, has recorded more than 200,000 objects.

But the map of the sky it provides differs considerably from that seen from the ground on a clear night. It presents a picture which allows astronomers to see behind the dust veils which obscure stars in formation or in their death throes.

The constellation of Orion, for example, occupies a much bigger area of the sky than that shown by maps presented from optical telescopes.

IRAS, which is sponsored by Britain, the Netherlands and the US, allows astronomers to peer through the dust veil of the Milky Way and to see a planetary system in formation in Vega.

Most objects can be correlated with known planets, stars, galaxies and quasars, but the latest discoveries have strong infra-red emissions in an uncrowded part of the sky which has no objects recorded previously by other telescopes.

One of the British scientists involved, Dr Michael Rowan-Robinson, of Queen Mary College, London, offered several possible explanations.

If the nine objects were close to Earth, perhaps on the edge of the solar system, they would have to be about the size of the planet Jupiter.

Alternatively, dying red stars or newly-forming stars shrouded in dust could give the same sort of image as that received.

Or the objects could be starburst galaxies at the furthest part of the universe, emitting infra-red energy of far greater power than visible light, hence the failure to see these objects with ground-based optical telescopes.

Another discovery announced yesterday was the observation by Mr Simon Green of Leicester University, working with Dr John Davies, of an object in the solar system, possibly a dead comet, given the temporary designation of 1983 TB.

It appears to be less than 1.2 miles in diameter and it was about 19 million miles from the Earth when it was first observed.

## Aspinall to gain £30m in casino coup

By Philip Robinson

Sir James Goldsmith, the financier, and Mr John Aspinall, the private zoo owner, are set to make staggering profits when Aspinall Holdings, their casino company, makes its stock market debut in Monday.

For £625,000 in loans five years ago, Sir James gets £3m cash and Aspinall shares worth £24m. Mr Aspinall put up £10,000 at the same time. He gets 26m cash and shares worth at least £24m. Between them they will own 80 per cent of the company.

In one of the biggest share scrambles seen in the City, stock market gamblers put up £504m for the 7.5m shares Aspinall is selling to the public. More than 70,000 applicants sought 438 million shares and as a result applications will be massively scaled down.

The stampede means that investors lucky enough to get shares are guaranteed an instant profit when dealings start. A premium of between 25p and 50p above the 115p price at which shares were offered, was being offered, was being forecast by stockbrokers last night.

The company, which owns Aspinall's Club in Knightsbridge, and The Aspinall Curzon, will be valued on the Stock exchange at a minimum of £60m.

## Earthquake panic hits Italy

An earthquake with its epicentre near Parma caused tremors and panic throughout northern Italy.

About 25 people were detained in hospital, most of them with injuries from falling masonry. People rushed into the streets and traffic was blocked for hours. Telephones were out of order.

## Heineken chief kidnapped

Mr Freddy Heineken, aged 60, head of the Heineken brewery, was kidnapped last night outside his Amsterdam offices by an armed gang.

## Nurses protest

The Royal College of Nursing says health care will continue to deteriorate unless the Government revises its policy of cuts.

## Détente sour



Since President Andropov became Soviet leader a year ago his own deteriorating health has coincided with a souring of relations between East and West.

## Greenham bill

It has cost £1,520,000 to police the Greenham Common air base during the past year, Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office, told the Commons.

## Japan visit

President Reagan, beginning his visit to Japan, has found that there are still wide differences between the two countries on trade.

## Wilander out

Mats Wilander and Johan Kriek were unexpectedly beaten yesterday in the Benson & Hedges tennis tournament at Wembley but Jimmy Connors won after losing the first set to Andreias Maurer.

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## Scoon names his advisory council

From Trevor Fishlock, St George's, Grenada

Sir Paul Scoon, Governor-General of Grenada, and head of government, yesterday named nine people to help him run a non-political, later administration pending the holding of elections.

Sir Paul said he had asked Mr Alistair McIntyre, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations committee on trade and development, to be its chairman. Pending Mr McIntyre's release from the UN, Mr Nicholas Braithwaite, an educator and director of the Commonwealth Youth Centre in Guyana, would be acting chairman.

From the verandah of his eighteenth-century residence in St George's, Sir Paul read a statement to a crowd of journalists and cameramen.

Under Grenada's constitution, Sir Paul, the Queen's representative, became the legal authority on the downfall of the short-lived revolutionary military government.

In his statement Sir Paul said it was important that security in the island should take the form of a police operation as quickly as possible. He said there were plans to create a police force, free of politics, under the command of a Grenadian or West Indian police commissioner.

"Meanwhile, we shall continue to depend on the Caribbean peacekeeping force for the maintenance of order and to allay fears. We are looking at

## Million car tax offences unpunished

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

More than a million vehicle excise duty offences, discovered and reported by the police and traffic wardens, failed to result in prosecution last year, a parliamentary report revealed yesterday.

Mr Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, told MPs that 1,257,000 offences were reported last year to the Department of Transport's Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre. But the Department has only managed to check 588,000 of the offence reports.

He said: "The Department estimates that up to half of the reports investigated do not result in recoveries, for various reasons."

Of the 669,000 offences which remained unchecked, 570,000 had been discarded "because they did not have the capacity to cope with them," Mr Downey reported. During the course of the year only 198,000 cases - 15.75 per cent - of offenders had been prosecuted or penalised. Fines, penalties and arrears amounted to £9.4m.

It had been estimated that in 1982-83 tax disc evasion resulted in a revenue loss of up to £174m.

## Sainsbury chief set to join NHS team

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Mr Roy Griffiths, deputy chairman and managing director of the Sainsbury supermarket group who led the recent inquiry into the management of the National Health Service, is expected to be appointed to the board which is to oversee the running of the service.

The Health Services Supervisory Board, which will be chaired by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Social Services, was one of the main recommendations of the inquiry. It will determine the purpose, objective and direction of the health service, approve the overall budget and make strategic decisions.

Other members will be Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Health; Sir Kenneth Stowe, Permanent Secretary at the Department of Health and Social Security; Sir Donald Acheson, who succeeds Sir Henry Yellowlee as chief

## Mosley faced prosecution for sedition

By Peter Hennessy and David Walker

Home Office officials contemplated prosecuting Sir Oswald Mosley for sedition in 1937 if he attempted to regroup his fascist movement around the Duke of Windsor, who had recently abdicated, according to secret Home Office files that have now been declassified.

The Mosley papers, scheduled to remain unopened until 2010 but partially released after pressure from MPs and the fascist leader's family, contain several references to the duke, who ruled briefly in 1936 as Edward VIII.

The present Queen's uncle, known to be sympathetic to the proto-fascist ideas of Mosley's New Party in the early 1930s, cut an especially attractive



figure in the eyes of the far right. A Special Branch report of April 1936 reported that Colin Ross, an agent of Hitler's, aimed to make contact with leading politicians and "possibly HM The King". A year later, after the abdication, the Special Branch quoted Mosley saying in private that the fascist movement should "impress the 'right people' that it was loyal to the Crown but that did not necessarily mean loyalty to the present monarch (George VI)". In speeches in the north of

England, Mosley, according to the police shorthand-writers, reminded working people of the interest taken in them by Edward VIII. "He was forced to abdicate," Mosley was reported to have said, "because of his determination to do something for them."

Home Office officials feared that Mosley wanted to establish a "King's Party" and instructed the Special Branch to keep a close watch on developments.

Mosley himself believed that the "mole" who supplied MIS with detailed information was W. E. D. Allen, a close friend. However the identity of the informant is not revealed in the papers which have been released so far.

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## Queen makes Cyprus her first stopover

Alotri Air Base, Cyprus (AP) - The Queen arrived here yesterday for an overnight stop at the beginning of her 17-day, 17,000 mile tour of Kenya, Bangladesh and India.

She left London on board a British Airways Tristar airliner. She stopped briefly in Geneva where she was joined by the Duke of Edinburgh, who was attending a Wildlife exhibition there.

The Queen's stop at this British sovereign base is treated as private. The visit will be free of ceremony at the Queen's express wish.

She will continue her flight to Nairobi today after planning a tree to commemorate her visit.

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## There's something new in the air!

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# Patients suffering under 'NHS blood-letting regime', nurses say

By Nicholas Timmins, Health Services Correspondent

Patients face a continuously deteriorating health service unless the Government reconsiders staff and cash cuts, the Royal College of Nursing said yesterday.

As the college published a list of ward closures, ambulance service cuts, and closures or postponements of services for the old, mentally ill and mentally handicapped, Mrs Sheila Quinn, its president said that was "conclusive" evidence that patient care was suffering.

She told the college's annual meeting in Manchester that the Government was right to want maximum value for money. But the college could not agree to the "specific blood-letting regime" being imposed.

"This Government is demanding too much too quickly; these cuts cannot be imposed without standards of care - and patients - suffering."

The college's initial survey of the effects of the cuts lists closures of wards treating respiratory, orthopaedic and gynaecological conditions. It says that smear tests for cervical cancer are being cut in Newcastle and elsewhere, and that in the northern region, five inpatients for the mentally ill or handicapped have been delayed and an 18-bed psychiatric unit in Hartlepool, has been closed.

In the South-east, Bexley and

Eastbourne health authorities have said that the £750,000 secure units for the mentally ill, funded centrally by the Department of Health as priority projects, will not open next year unless they are allowed 50 staff each.

A pupil nurse from a Kent hospital said a patient died without being noticed when she and one other nurse had to look after 24 patients on a busy ward at night.

The college said that the job cuts would be far higher than the Government's estimate of 4,700. Authorities which responded to demands for job cuts last year had suffered worst.

Mrs Quinn said that the NHS needed an annual growth of 0.7 per cent to allow for increasing numbers of elderly, and a further 0.5 per cent to help keep pace with medical innovation. But the Government's growth figure for the next decade was 0.5 per cent a year - not allowing for future cuts.

"The prospect, therefore, must be of a continuously deteriorating health service unless the shortfall can be made up from efficiency savings. The NHS cannot be squeezed much more without incurring an enormous human cost."

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, approved

yesterday the closure of the Prince of Wales Hospital, in Tottenham, north London.

Mr Clarke said that closure of the hospital would release £2m for services for the old, mentally ill and mentally handicapped, and allow in-patients services to be concentrated at the North Middlesex Hospital in Edmonstone and out-patient services at St Ann's Hospital.

● The Government yesterday received an unexpected accolade for its success in reducing NHS management costs.

Mr Gordon Downey, the Comptroller and Auditor General, reported last night to the Commons Select Committee of Public Accounts: "In cash terms, there has been an increase of over £140m in management costs between 1979-80 and 1982-83; in real terms there has been a saving of £10m in England, £300,000 in Wales, with no change in Scotland."

"The large measure of success in realizing the management cost percentage targets has been achieved largely because in real terms total NHS resources have increased while resources allocated to management have remained broadly constant."

But his report noted that health authority returns did not identify where the savings had been made.

## Oxford plans a shift away from hospitals

By Our Health Services Correspondent

Oxford Regional Health Authority is drawing up plans for a big shift in health care from hospitals to the community with far more day-care surgery and shorter admissions for maternity patients.

A draft of a 10-year strategic plan that the region is preparing argues that £16m could be saved from its acute hospital services to provide extra funds for elderly, mentally ill, and mentally handicapped patients in community rather than hospital care.

About £14m could be saved by treating up to a quarter of operations as day cases.

The plan is being drawn up after ministers rejected controversial proposals from the Oxford region last year that would have cut £12m from the cost of its acute services by radical measures, such as refusing to treat people from outside the region, charging for non-urgent operations, and closing medium-size hospitals.

The region argues that the £45m it might expect in growth over the next decade would allow services only to stand still. To free money for the development of services for the mentally ill, mentally handicapped, and elderly money

would have to be found by cutting spending on acute services.

"This is not a document about cuts," an authority official said yesterday. "It is about an imaginative way of looking at how we can cope with increases in demand while doing something about the cinderella services."

"Taken over 10 years, we think there might be a potential saving of £16m by doing things more efficiently than we are at the moment."

● About twenty companies that make up and fit spectacle lenses and then sell them to National Health Service patients through their own shops have made "unintended profits" between 1977 and 1981 of about £5.3m, it was disclosed last night (our Political Correspondent writes).

Mr Gordon Downey, Comptroller and Auditor General, told the Commons Select Committee of Public Accounts last night that he had discovered that the Department of Health and Social Services had failed to take action on the unintended profits because it had had "no way of establishing whether these profits were acceptable or not".

## Talks today on extending miners' overtime ban

By Our Labour Editor

Miners' leaders meet today at the end of the second week of a national overtime ban to decide their next move in the face of intensifying pressure from the National Coal Board for a secret pithead ballot.

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the board, said after meeting pitmen at Thoresby colliery in Nottinghamshire: "The overtime ban is having no effect whatsoever. We have stocks and supplies that will last until 1985."

"I am surprised at the number of miners who have had no chance to decide whether they want the pay increase or the overtime ban. I always understood that the union believed in a democratic process. The sooner men are able to express their views on the offer, the better it will be for the industry."

The board has offered an increase of 5.2 per cent, ranging from £4.90 to £6.80 on basic rates, to 190,000 miners. The new rates were due to have come into operation on November 1.

There is also some pressure

from within the union for a ballot. Mr Joe McKie, Midlands area president of the National Union of Mineworkers, is quoted in the latest edition of the board's journal *Coal News* as saying: "If the board are really saying there is no more money forthcoming, the national executive should make the decision to consult the men by ballot."

The overtime ban, he argues, relates to the defence of the industry and "has nothing to do with the pay claim". Other moderates take a similar view, and there is likely to be a move at today's union executive meeting to test support for an early poll.

In its first week the overtime ban caused a loss of 241,000 tonnes of coal production, about 11 per cent of normal output. But because output was already running ahead of demand, all customers except those taking anthracite received their full needs.

The miners lost about £1.5m in earnings and the board says that pay packets will be even thinner

## Duffy raises hopes of union merger

By Our Labour Correspondent

Renewed attempts are to be made to forge an amalgamation between the engineers' and electricians' unions, which would create a union of almost 1.5 million members and a powerful voice of moderation inside the TUC and Labour Party.

Added impetus has been given to the merger plans between the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers and the Electrical, Electronic, and Plumbing Union by the retirement at the end of the year of Mr Frank Chapple, the forceful leader of the electricians for the past 20 years.

Mr Terence Duffy, AUEW president, who was guest speaker at Blackpool yesterday, said that he hoped there could be an amalgamation before he retired in less than four years.

## Liberals given £250,000 to fight European poll

By Patricia Clough

The Liberal Party will be given £250,000 by the European Parliament's Liberal group for its campaign in next year's European elections, it was announced in London yesterday.

Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, said at a joint press conference that none of the money would be passed on to the Social Democrats.

Herr Martin Bangemann, the president of the European Liberal and Democratic group, invited the Social Democrats to join the group if any of them were elected to Strasbourg next June.

But although that could mean a share in the funds, the Social Democrats preferred to remain uncommitted for the time being.

The £250,000 which Herr

Bangemann said was voted unanimously to the British party means a certain sacrifice by Liberals and Social Democrats in other countries.

Under the European Parliament's rules, neither the British Liberals nor the SDP stands to receive a penny of its £16.7m pre-election fund because they do not have any seats.

The Conservatives, with 61 members, will receive about £2m and Labour, with 17 members, is expected to get about £1m.

However, the two smaller parties can expect a small share of a second European Parliament fund of £7.5 which will be divided up among the parties on the basis of votes won.

Herr Bangemann made a plea for proportional representation in Britain.

## CPSA 'No' to Labour affiliation

Lower-paid civil servants have voted by a margin of two to one against affiliating their union to the Labour Party in a ballot that points to trouble ahead for Mr Neil Kinnock, the party leader.

In a 51 per cent poll, members of the Civil and Public Services Association (CPSA) voted 65,922 against affiliation and 312,479 in favour, a majority of just under 67.5 per cent against the political recommendation of the union's national executive.

Mr Alastair Graham, general secretary of the CPSA and an active member of the Labour Party, said: "It is a much better result than we expected, and it should give heart to those trade unions already affiliated that are going to face political balloting under government legislation. You can get substantial support for affiliation to the Labour Party."

Under the Trade Union Bill now going through Parliament, unions will be compelled to hold a vote on the continuation of their political fund before the middle of 1985; labour movement sources fear that up to 15 unions could be forced to sever their links with the party.

Unions whose political funds are most at risk are thought to be those with large white-collar and women memberships. Under that heading are included the shop workers' union, USDAW; the clerical union, Apex; Mr Clive Jenkins's union, ASTMS; and some craft unions.

The CPSA first voted to join the Labour Party in 1918; last month's £50,000 ballot is unlikely to be repeated for at least five years.

The overtime ban, he argues, relates to the defence of the industry and "has nothing to do with the pay claim". Other moderates take a similar view, and there is likely to be a move at today's union executive meeting to test support for an early poll.

In its first week the overtime ban caused a loss of 241,000 tonnes of coal production, about 11 per cent of normal output. But because output was already running ahead of demand, all customers except those taking anthracite received their full needs.

The miners lost about £1.5m in earnings and the board says that pay packets will be even thinner

## Former defence chief questions military value of cruise

By David Cross

Lord Carver, former Chief of the Defence Staff between 1973 and 1976, last night questioned the military value of cruise missiles, which are about to arrive in Britain.

"Who can explain what the Pershing 2 and the Tomahawk cruise missiles are for in military terms?" he asked the Council for Arms Control during a speech in London. "They cannot knock out the SS20s, even in a first strike, and the authorities do not pretend they can. So why have them?"

Lord Carver, who was delivering the second annual lecture to the council under the title "Nuclear Weapons in Europe", said that when one asked that kind of question, one was told that unless Nato, which meant the United States,

maintained a balance in all types of warheads and delivery systems, the West would be subject to nuclear blackmail.

"In some way or another we shall be forced to do or to accept unpleasant things, because the Soviet Union has a superiority in certain types of system," he said.

But a blackmailer depended on his victim being afraid to disclose something. One who was not afraid could not be blackmailed. "If we could accept that, it does not matter how many warheads and systems of delivery the other side has."

"As long as we have an invulnerable system which can be guaranteed to inflict an unacceptable degree of damage in retaliation, we can just regard it as folly on his part to

waste his money on providing anything more than that himself."

"It would be criminally irresponsible for any Western leader to initiate a nuclear strike on the assumption that the Soviet Union either would not answer back in kind or would do so to such a limited degree that we could regard it as acceptable within whatever were our war aims," he said.

A genuine acceptance of policies of "no first use" would mean that nuclear forces could be reduced to those required only as a retaliatory threat, he argued. As a first step Nato should get rid of the shortest range weapons - artillery shells - now, without complicating things by demanding that the Russians must reciprocate.

## Trident 'best bet for Britain'

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

If Britain were to cancel its plans to acquire the Trident strategic nuclear missile system it would amount to unilateral disarmament, according to Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin who retired nearly a year ago as chief of the defence staff.

He told a conference yesterday organized by King's College London on the future of British sea power that Trident was "far and away the best bet for the United Kingdom" and was the most cost-effective solution to the need to replace the present Polaris system.

Lord Lewin said that in financial terms the acquisition

of cruise missiles as an alternative to Trident would not be a starter. Trident was now advanced to a stage where there was no alternative.

Even if Britain wanted to change forces and was prepared to spend the vastly greater amount of money that would be required, it could not deploy an alternative to Trident in time.

Neither was there an alternative by maintaining Polaris in service. It was based on 1950s technology. "You cannot expect from the point of view of cost or the high risk of breakdown to run the Polaris weapon system

into the next century," Lord Lewin said.

What was missed by people like Dr David Owen, who suggested that Trident should be cancelled and Polaris run on, perhaps as a bargaining chip, was that Polaris was "quite useless as a bargaining chip". The Soviet Union would only have to wait for it to become unserviceable.

A government which would cancel Trident was not supporting the independent strategic deterrent. Polaris would lose its credibility not only in the eyes of an enemy but in British eyes as well, Lord Lewin said.

## Success claimed in peace blockade

By Pat Healy

Greenham Women Against Cruise claimed last night that traffic in and out of RAF Wethersfield, Essex, was halted by 300 protesters taking part in the 24-hour vigil outside 102 American military installations in Britain.

The Ministry of Defence said last night that it had no information about a blockade at the base, which it said had minor military importance. The peace camps were set up in support of the Greenham Women's legal action against President Reagan in New York to prevent cruise missiles being deployed in Britain.

At Greenham, about 200 women stayed overnight at the four camps around the base. During the day, they were joined by men and women.

They appeared unconcerned at reports that a missile had been delivered to the base during the night. Mrs Jane Dennett, a grandmother who has lived at the camp for more than a year, said that with launchers travelling at 18 miles an hour and needing large numbers of support vehicles, there would be too many demonstrators to allow any

missiles to be moved out for deployment.

The Ministry of Defence said last night that about 3,000 people had taken part in the day's events, which had been peaceful. There had been camps outside about 40 to 50 bases, some of which were not American.

Mr Douglas Hurd, Minister of State at the Home Office, announced in a Commons written reply last night that the cost of policing Greenham Common over the past year was £1,520,000 of which £951,000 was police overtime and other additional costs.

● NEW YORK: Legal papers for the effort to prevent deployment of cruise missiles in Britain were filed in a New York Federal Court yesterday by 13 women from the Greenham Common movement (Zorians Fysariwsky writes).

The 13 plaintiffs are joined by two US congressmen and have assembled military, medical and scientific witnesses.

The action is being taken under the American alien Tort Claim Act, an 18th century law against piracy.

## Ministers get a lecture

By Peter Hennessy

Sir Douglas Wass, Permanent Secretary to the Treasury until Easter, had a message in his first BBC Reith lecture on Radio 4 last night for ministers who will engage in battle at today's Cabinet discussion on public spending.

He said that more advanced cost-benefit analysis could give them a sounder basis for making choices.

Sir Douglas recommended a revival of Mr Edward Heath's analytic system for assessing

spending programmes against their original objectives.

Whitehall should also experiment with the American practice of zero-based budgeting where a government department works out what would happen if an existing activity was ended.

Sir Douglas questioned whether ministers outside the Treasury were kept well enough informed to take big decisions on the management of the economy and the Budget.

## Telephone engineers reject new system

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

British Telecom's plans to modernize its telephone exchanges using the new micro-technology - System X - were thrown into serious doubt last night after the union conference of telephone engineers decided to block its introduction.

The Post Office Engineering Union's conference in Blackpool rejected the advice of its left-wing executive that there should be continuing discussions on the use of the new system, which is designed to replace the present mechanical exchanges. Instead delegates decided there should be no further work on System X until a national staffing agreement had been reached with British Telecom.

Threatened job losses resulting from System X were variously estimated by union moderates to amount to 40 per cent and by left-wingers to be as high as 90 per cent. Delegates agreed that there had to be a national agreement on jobs before the union was prepared to talk to the management about the introduction of any more new exchanges.

British Telecom has invested about £250m so far in System X and had hoped to have the new modernized exchanges operating in 12 areas next year. Thirty exchanges are due to go over to System X in 1986, with the total rising to 60 by 1988.

The management said last night that it had signed an agreement with the union in 1980 - which guaranteed job security and allowed for all job losses resulting from System X to be handled through natural wastage, redeployment, retraining or early retirement.

The union had been guaranteed that none of its members would lose their jobs through redundancy.

A joint study by British Telecom and the union in Manchester concluded that plans for the system's introduction in 1986 would reduce the number of engineers engaged on exchange maintenance from the present 253 to 41.

Mr Douglas Rice, a London delegate, told the conference that in his area the number of POEUs employed in one exchange would drop from 223 to 20.

Pilot schemes using the system, which is based on microchips, are in operation at Woodbridge, Arrington, Cambridge, Hale and London.

A final decision on whether to renege cooperation will rest with a special conference that the union is now committed to calling after talks with British Telecom on a national staffing agreement.

## Daily Express censured over march report

The *Daily Express* is censured by the Press Council today for a serious lapse from journalistic standards in a report about unemployed marchers.

It upholds a complaint by the People's March for Jobs '83 that the newspaper published an inaccurate story and editorial reflecting on the march and its leader, a brief letter for publication did not fully correct the report.

The *Daily Express* had reported that Jobcentres' offers of jobs had been rejected by 74 unemployed marchers the day before the march. The editorial contrasted the few who had reached Lancashire with the thousands of hunger marchers in the 1930s.

The Press Council finds that the report was untrue and the editorial did not mention that the march had been limited to 50 people from each region. The approach offering jobs to the marchers had been made not by the Jobcentre managers but by the *Daily Express* reporter.

## Legal battle on Dimbleby papers nears decision

The legal dispute between Mr David Dimbleby, the broadcaster, and the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) is expected to be decided tomorrow.

Mr Dimbleby is seeking a High Court injunction against the union to stop it supporting 14 journalists formerly employed by his Richmond and Twickenham Times group of newspapers.

The hearing has lasted two days so far; a decision has been delayed while the court considered the relevance to the case of yesterday's Court of Appeal ruling that the Post Office Engineering Union cannot order its British Telecom members to black Mercury, the private telecommunications company.

The Dimbleby newspapers appear to have been unaffected by the loss of most of their writing staff. It is believed that three non-union journalists are still working, and strikers say that extra people have been brought in. The finished product is being distributed from Nottingham by Bailey Forman, a non-union company that has been printing the newspaper since last month.

It was the transfer of printing from Richmond to Nottingham, with the dismissal of the

## Move on Kincora scandal

The Government is moving towards holding a further inquiry into the homosexual scandal at the Kincora boys' home in Belfast (Richard Ford writes).

An inquiry by Sir George Terry, former Chief Constable of Sussex, cleared the Royal Ulster Constabulary of a cover-up. But Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, has been under pressure from Ulster politicians for a full public judicial inquiry.

Mr Prior said yesterday: "I think it may well be that there has to be some form of inquiry." He would discuss the form it might take with Cabinet colleagues in the next few days.

Mr Peter Robertson, deputy leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, said in the Northern Ireland Assembly yesterday that the Terry inquiry had failed to settle the doubts of many people.

## Welsh television audience slumps

The spectre of falling viewing audiences has cast a shadow over the first year celebrations of S4C, the Welsh language television channel, whose annual report and accounts were published yesterday.

In a nine-week period until last March, the end of the year covered by the accounts, the station had an average 115,000 viewers among Welsh speakers, equivalent to a UK audience of 14 million. But by October the audience had slumped to 53,000.

## Split in cocaine bag killed man

A man who swallowed a plastic bag containing cocaine after police arrested him on suspicion of driving while unfit through drink or drugs died of cocaine poisoning when the bag split in his stomach, an inquest at Westminster was told yesterday.

A misadventure verdict was returned on Timothy Lloyd Davies, aged 28, unemployed, of Canfield Gardens, West Hampstead, London.

## Mail contract kept by BR

British Rail has retained its role as the main carrier of Post Office mail after two years of negotiations, when threats were made that the £40m-a-year business might go to road or air operators.

A new five-year contract, which involves tighter pricing by BR and tough conditions on quality, will be signed by the end of the year.

## Murder victim's car found

A missing red Jaguar car belonging to the victim of what detectives call a "professional execution" was found in east London yesterday.

Mr Lloyd Simpson, aged 26, a waste-paper dealer, was shot, probably on Saturday at his flat in Shaftesbury Court, Shore-ditch. Mr Simpson's father, who found his body on Monday, said yesterday: "Unless it is proved to me, I won't believe he was involved in gangland."

## Blast toll rises

A seventh victim has died after the weekend explosion at a house in Gravesend, Kent, whose basement housed a workshop making shoes. Kulvinder Singh, aged 24, suffered severe burns.

## Land record

A new UK farmland price record was set yesterday when five acres of land at Friston Shore, in south Lincolnshire, sold for an average price of £6,500 an acre.

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## Homebuyers' hopes fade as the Leeds opposes early mortgage rate cut

By Peter Wilson-Smith



Mr Hemingway: "Time not yet ripe"

Leeds Permanent, Britain's fourth biggest building society, put paid to any lingering hopes of a pre-Christmas cut in the mortgage rate yesterday when it joined the ranks of societies in favour of delay.

Nearly all the big societies have now lined up publicly against the Abbey National which is eager to reduce the 11.25 per cent mortgage rate by up to 1 per cent next month.

Although societies are now free to move rates independently, the concerted opposition to an early cut means that homebuyers are unlikely to see a fall in their monthly mortgage payments until the new year.

Mr Peter Hemingway, chief general manager of the Leeds Permanent, said yesterday: "The time is not yet ripe for a reduction in the mortgage rate. Demand continues to exceed supply. It is our responsibility to ensure a steady flow of mortgage funds and I do not see a general downward movement in rates at least until the new year."

Although record savings are

general manager of the Woolwich, which is against an early move, said recently that the societies had cut their rates prematurely last year and then spent the next seven months regretting it. He thought that the societies should consider a reduction from January 1.

Building society chiefs met yesterday to discuss mortgage rates and the full council of the Building Societies Association is expected to make a final decision on the "advised" rate at its meeting tomorrow.

Abbey National said yesterday that it would continue to argue vigorously in favour of a reduction. After speculation that it might decide to lower its rates without waiting for the other societies, Mr Richard Baglin, the general manager, said: "We are going to wait and see the outcome on Friday."

Privately, however, it is accepted by building society executives that it is virtually impossible for any society to lower its rates on its own, even though the abolition of the cartel now leaves them free to do so.

reported because of the attractive rates offered, many of the big societies are still unable to meet demand. Mortgage queues have fallen sharply recently but the societies want more time to reduce the backlog.

This week's poor money supply figures, combined with recent predictions that interest rates may have bottomed out, are also likely to lend weight to those arguing for delay.

Mr Alan Cumming, chief

## Kidnap wife assaulted, court told

A kidnap victim listened helplessly and furiously as his wife was sexually assaulted, the Central Criminal Court was told in London yesterday.

Mr Emmanuel Xuereb, a businessman, and his wife Maria, aged 25, were both allegedly taken to a house in Croydon, Kent, by kidnappers who demanded a £2m ransom.

On the first night, Mr Xuereb said, he tried to escape but his neck was bound by a noose to a radiator. His wife was in the room next door. He heard the kidnapper whom he knew only as Number One, sexually threaten his wife.

Mr Xuereb said: "The door was slightly open, so I could hear. I heard her pleading with him. Then I heard something like: 'If you don't, I will do it in front of him.' It was the voice of Number One."

"I pleaded with people who kept coming in to see me to let me see Maria. Number One came in and told me to shut up and let him."

Hours later, Mr Xuereb said, kidnapper Number Two took him into Maria's room. "I asked Maria if anything had happened. She said 'no'. I asked her to swear and she swore 'no'."

Anastasi Panay, a green-grocer, and George Panay, a driving instructor, both of Dunston Road, Battersea, south-London have denied kidnapping the couple, falsely imprisoning them and blackmail. George Panay has also denied indecently assaulting Mrs Xuereb.

The trial continues today.

## Rape study criticizes the police

Scottish police forces are likely to be asked to set up specialist rape investigation squads after the publication yesterday of a Scottish Office report highly critical of police handling of alleged sexual assaults.

The officers selected should be better trained and the squads should contain more women. After investigating procedure in Glasgow and Edinburgh, the report confirms allegations made increasingly recently that police treatment of victims is often unsympathetic.

Complaints however, were mainly directed against the CID - more than 80 per cent of women interviewed were happy with their treatment by uniformed officers.

The report says that the problem mainly arises from a built-in scepticism on the part of CID officers.

"It was almost as if there were two different approaches adopted by the police, an initial hardline sceptical attitude which when overturned by the convincing features of the complainant's story, turned into a supportive and sympathetic attitude."

A joint statement from the chief constables of Edinburgh and Lothian and Strathclyde police forces accused the researchers of not producing a balanced report.

## Synod anger over women priests

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The division and tension in the Church of England over women priests came to the surface in the General Synod yesterday when angry words were expressed on both sides.

A measure allowing the temporary licensing in England of women priests from overseas passed its first reading as expected, but the size and strength of resistance indicated that the final outcome is uncertain.

The vote in favour fell short of the two-thirds majority that will eventually be required and one leading opponent said afterwards: "This is an orange light turning to red."

The Rev Brian O'Connor, of Rochester diocese, was applauded loudly for a bitter attack on the synod's business managers for designating the measure as one that will need such a large final majority, together with approval in a majority of dioceses.

"If you go on slamming the door in our faces, then you leave us no option but one day to kick it down," he said.

Canon George Austin, of St Albans Diocese, called that "the most disgraceful speech I have

ever heard in this synod". He then, however suggested that opponents should abstain at this stage, advice eventually followed by 19 members.

The measure was given its initial approval by 24 votes to 9 in the House of Bishops, 122 to 73 in the House of Clergy, and 130 to 71 in the House of Laity.

The measure is to permit any of the 600 women priests in the Anglican Communion overseas to officiate as priests when they visit England, as male visiting priests are already allowed to do.

The measure is now subject to detailed revision, followed by a formal reference for the consent of the diocesan synods, and it will return to the general synod for final approval in about 12 months time.

Earlier, the synod passed a resolution calling for greater public accountability for transnational corporations, suggesting that the churches in different countries should exchange information about international businesses so that they can, as the bishop of Lincoln, the Right Rev Simon Phipps, put it, engage in "well informed and unsparring" criticism.



Penelope Keith, the actress, presenting Mrs Judy Farrell with the millionth half-price theatre ticket sold in Leicester Square. (Photograph: Orde Eliason).

## West End theatres lighting up again

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

The West End of London will be without a single dark theatre within three weeks, an astonishing revival in popularity.

Only eight months after many pundits pronounced the West End dead, with 16 theatres closed, there is now optimism in the business.

Yesterday the Society of West End Theatre celebrated the sale of the millionth ticket at its half-price booth in Leicester Square, where more than 1,000 last-minute tickets a day, 4 per cent of all those sold, are bought.

The entry of new theatre blood into the West End has fired hopes for the future.

The Canadian, Mr Ed Mirvish, has revived the Old Vic. Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber has bought the Palace Theatre, Gomba Holdings now has three theatres, the most recent being the Mermaid, and the Theatre of Comedy, under the impres-

sario Mr Ray Cooney, has taken over the Shaftesbury and the Ambassadors.

Mr Vincent Burke, development officer of the Society of West End Theatre, said yesterday that only three of the West End's 46 theatres are at present dark - the Phoenix, the Westminster and the Adelphi. Two will shortly open with pantomimes and the Adelphi with the musical *Poppy*.

"The burst of commitment to the West End we have seen recently, reflected by the Old Vic and other new companies, means we can feel a degree of satisfaction," Mr Burke said.

"I don't think anyone can remember when there wasn't at least one dark theatre. We would probably have to go back to the late 1970s to find a time when all the theatres were open."



Dame Mary Donaldson and her grandchildren trying out the Lord Mayor's coach, which will be pulled by Whitbread's shire horses. (Photograph: John Manning).

## New move to tackle erring lawyers

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

The Law Society is seeking wide new statutory powers to discipline erring solicitors, as part of reforms to the complaints system.

The changes proposed coincide with criticism of the society's handling of two recent cases. Mr Stanley Best, chairman of the British Legal Association, has called for a public inquiry into the way the society deals with complaints against solicitors.

The society wants power to order a solicitor to rectify at his own expense mistakes he has made in the conduct of a client's case. Powers are also being sought to order a solicitor to pay back costs to a client.

The society says its professional purposes committee should be able to compel a solicitor to show it a file, and more powers are being sought to tackle the misbehaviour of solicitors' clerks.

The professional purposes committee can take certain

## Dame Mary rehearses her show

The Lord Mayor's procession in the City of London on Saturday is a family affair, Dame Mary Donaldson, who will be London's first lady Lord Mayor, set the tone yesterday by taking her six grandchildren to try out the gilded coach in which she will lead the procession.

The children, two of whom have travelled with their home in Canada to attend the event, will not be in the coach on Saturday.

The procession, which leaves Guild hall at 11am, will contain more than 50 decorated floats illustrating this year's theme, "It's People That Matter". It will travel via St Paul's Cathedral into the Strand and stop at the Royal Courts of Justice, where the Lord Mayor will be greeted by the Lord Chief Justice and judges.

In a departure from tradition the procession dates back to the 13th century - she will also be met there by the Master of the Roll. He is Sir John Donaldson, her husband.

## Top businessmen tell teachers what industry wants

From Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent, Morpeth

Sixteen senior industrialists returned to school yesterday to learn what has changed since they were pupils and to tell schools what industry wants from them.

At King Edward VI Comprehensive in Morpeth, Northumberland, industrialists from Vickers, Procter and Gamble, Ford, British Shipbuilders and other companies watched pupils learning about technology, keying into microcomputers and typing.

They did not agree in their criticisms although all said that children should have a broad education and be able to analyse problems and express themselves.

Mr Graham Shepley, of Northern Engineering Industries, said that children were not being prepared enough for the new technologies of the 1990s.

Others said that the school had gone too far in trying to meet all the different demands put on it and that what was needed was basic grounding in science and mathematics.

Mr Shepley asked: "Why is it necessary to teach woodwork still?" Mr Barry Crowther, head of science, said that there was a problem in the school because of the lack of coordination between science and technology. Woodwork could be taught intelligently if the two were combined, he said.

Mr Gerald Boxall, chief executive of Vickers Defence Systems, offered the services of

industry to schools. He asked what topics industrialists could explain in schools to make lessons more relevant.

One of the common complaints about the education system is the irrelevance of much teaching to the outside world. Mr Michael Duffy, the headmaster, said he would consider that.

The teachers said that the main reason children did not take technology at A level although they did it at O level was that the universities did not recognize the subject. They insisted on pure sciences for entry qualifications.

Mr Ron Harryman, manufacturing director at Procter and Gamble, said that lessons on computers were good, but that young people should learn modern languages in business studies because of Britain's membership of the EEC.

Mr Terence Lemmon, managing director of International Paint, said that he had a "tremendous feeling of sadness" because of the school's lack of resources compared with its tasks. "The nation is not creating enough wealth to give you the money to do what you need."

Mr Duffy said that the present pressures on schools might lead them to curb their curriculum and concentrate on the familiar. "The only reaction for us is to rise to the challenge of amending the curriculum and amending our methodology."

## Plea for computer program cash

By Our Education Correspondent

The government should give every secondary school £400 to £500 to buy computer programs in the same way as it gave grants for microcomputers Mr Roger Watson, chairman of the Educational Publishers' Council said yesterday.

Speaking at the start of the Schools Computer Fair, the first national computer software exhibition for teachers, Mr Watson, managing director of the schools division of Longmans, said that it was vital to have this "pump-priming" to enable schools to buy programs, which cost about £15 each.

Otherwise schools would be slow to make purchases of funds and school-book publishers, many of whom have entered the software market, would not get the feedback needed to improve and update material.

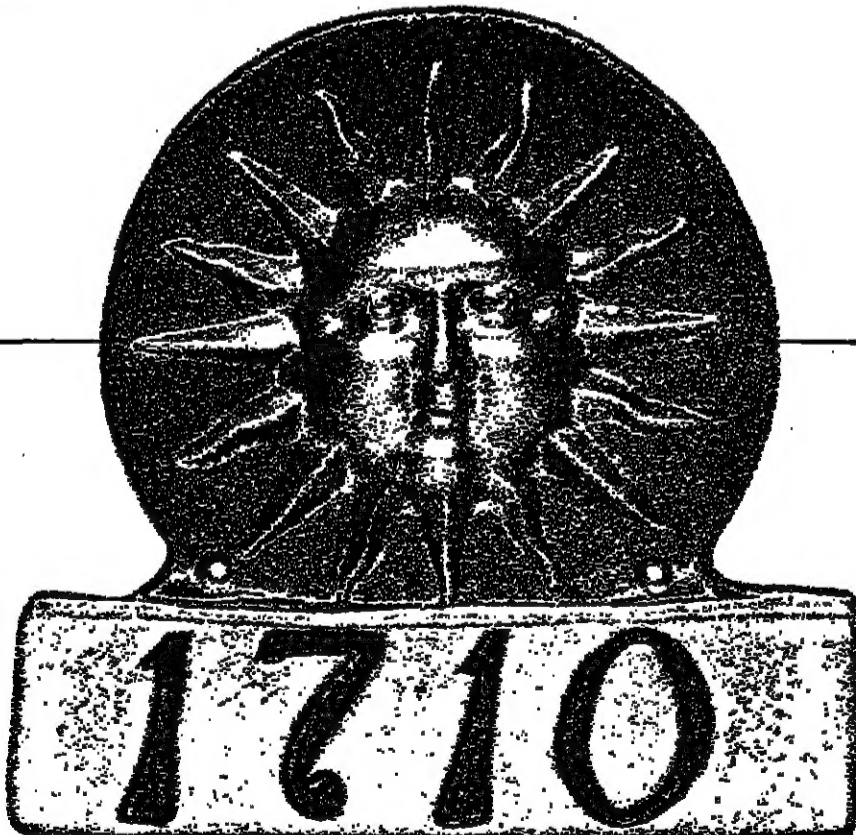
About 2,000 teachers are expected to attend the fair, which continues until this evening at the Regent Crest

Hotel in London. There are 49 stands and publishers, notably Macmillan (in conjunction with Sinclair), Schofield and Sims, and Longman have produced software to coincide with it.

The exhibition, opened yesterday by Mr Edward Rowlands, Labour MP for Merthyr Tydfil and Rhymney has been organized in response to teachers' requests. There was a serious shortage of software, particularly good programs, until recently.

The school software market is small and not lucrative. There are about 2,000 secondary schools and they are used to paying low prices. The profits lie in the personal computer market.

The overseas market is developing but most countries do not use the BBC Acorn or the 3802, the two machines which secondary schools here can buy with money from the Department of Trade and Industry.



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## Nuclear waste rail crash 'unrealistic'

By David Nicholson-Lord

A rail crash to be staged by the Central Electricity Generating Board in an effort to demonstrate the safety of transporting nuclear waste by train was condemned yesterday by environmental groups as a "panic" public relations exercise, unlikely to simulate the real dangers of an accident.

Details have yet to be worked out, but the operation, to take place later next year or early in 1985, will probably involve crashing a train travel-

ling at 100mph into a brick barrier. A likely site is British Rail's stretch of test track at Old Dalby, near Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire.

A locomotive due to be scrapped will be used to haul the wagon with a 50-tonne steel flask on board. No radioactive material will be carried, however, and the engine is likely to be guided by remote control.

The exercise is similar to tests carried out in the United States, where trains have been

crashed into bridge abutments to examine the effects on the flasks.

Mr Peter Wilkinson, United Kingdom director for Greenpeace, said that neither the crash nor the test drops of flasks also announced by the CEBG catered for an accident accompanied by a fire in which temperatures remained at 1,000°C for several hours. The CEBG's fire tests allow for temperatures of up to 800°C for half an hour.



## PARLIAMENT November 9 1983

## British troops staying in multinational force

## MIDDLE EAST

Mr Richard Luce, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, in reporting to the Commons on his recent visit to Jordan, Egypt and Israel and answering questions about the situation in the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon, said he did not believe it was right to contemplate the withdrawal of the British contingent from the multinational peacekeeping force.

He was replying to the Cynil Tawassul (Beirut), C, who said that neither retribution nor revenge were part of the role of the peacekeeping force. Did it not follow that one element of the multinational force, the British contingent, should be withdrawn?

Mr Luce said retribution was not the objective of the British Government which sought, by whatever means possible, support for reconciliation in the Lebanon and the other disputes. That was what all their efforts should be bent upon.

He considered the Ragan plan was the best basis on which to move forward and indicated he had found a considerable degree of support for it.

Dealing with his talks, he said the Government remained firmly committed to the Venice Declaration and the first principle of the right to security of the state of Israel and also the Palestinian people having the right to self-determination.

Mr Stuart Bell (Middlesex, Lab.) Did he have the impression from these governments that we were following the policy of the United States in the Middle East or not, or were we following European policy?

If they had the impression that we were following the American policy with its twists and turns, what did he do to disabuse these governments of that impression?

Mr Luce: I am resolutely following British policy. (Conservative cheer.) I am resolutely following British policy. I am resolutely following British policy. I am resolutely following British policy.

Mr Dennis Walters (Westbury, C): Would he agree that the situation in the Middle East is so dangerous that no short-term measures are adequate? The time has come to try to sponsor a meeting to discuss a

comprehensive long-term settlement, above all to the principles of the Venice Declaration?

Mr Luce: There are great dangers in the situation in the Middle East. The Israeli problem has become stagnant and stagnation breeds despair. That in turn breeds violence and great dangers not just for Israel, but for the Arabs and Palestinians.

Israel and Palestine have so much at stake that I believe it is important for Britain to continue to work as possible with our European partners and other parties to the disputes, to think positively what we can do to help.

Mr Greville Janner (Leicester West, Lab.) Unless and until the Syrians are prepared to leave the Lebanon, there can be no hope for peace. Did he discuss what prospects there are of Syria agreeing to go, in the same way as the Israelis have agreed to go?

Mr Luce: I discussed with all parties the problem of the Lebanon. There is no shadow of doubt that if there is to be a peaceful settlement in the Lebanon, it is essential for all forces to withdraw.

I had an assurance from the Israeli Government that it is their priority to do so. I think they will honor that obligation as soon as possible. It is essential that all forces withdraw as soon as possible from the Lebanon.

Mr Anthony Nelson (Chichester, C): Did he discuss with King Hussein and also the Palestinian people having the right to self-determination? If so, would he agree that the subject of the PLO by the Syrian Government does effectively reflect the Rabat agreement and the way in clear for King Hussein to play a more active and positive role in finding a solution to this continuing problem?

Mr Luce: I discussed the dispute in considerable detail in Jordan as well as the present situation in the Middle East. We all noted the violence between the Syrian element and the PLO. We acknowledged the position is uncertain and we do not know what will happen as a result of that.

Our primary concern, apart from the security of Israel, is the position of the Arab people. It is the position of the Arab people that we are concerned with. It is the position of the Arab people that we are concerned with.

Mr Dennis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Leeds East, Lab.) Did he protest to the Israel Government about its refusal to let the United Nations Security Council majority on the West Bank? Does he still maintain that self-

determination for the Palestine population is an essential element in any possible solution for the Middle East problem?

Mr Luce: I had a most useful dialogue with the leaders of the Israel Government. It was with some regret that some of the leaders on the West Bank were not able to see me. It is singularly important for a country that is strongly democratic such as Israel, that everyone should be able to talk to each other.

Mr Luce: We believe the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people is something which, if it is not fulfilled in whatever way the parties to the problem agree, then the problem of the Arab-Israeli dispute will continue and continue.

We shall get violence and that will be contrary to the interests of Israel, the Arab countries and Western interests as well.

Mr Julian Amery (Brighton, Pavilion, C): He has said we would stand by the Venice declaration suggesting involvement of the PLO in future negotiations. Does that not seem a little unrealistic in the present circumstances?

Mr Luce: What matters here are the two cardinal principles in that declaration. First, the absolute right of the state of Israel to exist within secure boundaries - and that is something to which we are strongly committed. The second is our belief that you also cannot get a peaceful solution unless the Palestinian people have the right to self-determination.

During further exchanges, he added: While I attach the highest priority to a continuing and regular dialogue with the Israeli Government, and there is much we have in common as well as that which divides us, we do have a very real difference of opinion about their policy of settlements on the West Bank and this is something I had to state very strongly to the government.

It was premature to talk about a shift by the United States to an anti-Arab policy, Mr Raymond Whitney, Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said in answering these questions during which he indicated that Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, had no plans to visit Washington in the near future. (The Foreign Secretary was in Athens for talks.)

Mr Martin Flanagan (Sheffield, Hillsborough, Lab.) asking Mr Whitney to accept that the



Luce: British policy



Janner: Syrians must go

belligerent posture being adopted on a world scale by the US was regarded by many millions throughout the globe as very dangerous for all mankind.

Would the minister (the went on) raise in particular the position of the Lebanon and Central America and try to persuade President Reagan, through the US foreign minister, to adopt a less belligerent posture and on no account to attack these states? Many people would be dragged into the maelstrom if the US did anything so silly, he informed.

Mr Whitney: The President and his administration have made clear that their objectives are to establish peace and economic progress in Central America. On Lebanon, clearly those forces have a right to self-defence, but the objective is to secure peace. We share those objectives, which are being pursued in conjunction with the US allies.

Mr Peter Blake (Blackpool South, C): Despite regrettable differences of opinion with the US Administration on a number of matters recently, will the Government attach first importance to developing and maintaining our close relationship with the US within NATO?

Mr Whitney: That is the Government's position and that view is shared on the other side of the Atlantic. Whatever the necessity to recognize the immense contribution that the alliance has made and will continue to make to peace and security in western Europe.

Mr Donald Stewart (Western Isles, SNP): Whatever the necessity of the close alliance with the US, many people are extremely alarmed at the trigger-happy response of the President over recent days.

Mr Whitney: Whatever the necessity of the close alliance with the US, many people are extremely alarmed at the trigger-happy response of the President over recent days.

Mr Whitney: Our own views on the conduct of international diplomacy have been well expressed to the US Government.

Mr Whitney: Our own views on the conduct of international diplomacy have been well expressed to the US Government.

## Labour accused of relying on rhetoric in attacks on cuts

## HOUSE OF LORDS

Surprisingly to whittle away the National Health Service would be a breach of the existing statute and constitute an act of treachery designed to undermine the social services and damage the health of the nation, Lord Moly (Lab) said during an opening debate in the House of Lords on the future of the NHS.

To attack the NHS, he said, was to attack the people. If the Government did that, it would be service it must fully maintain it. There were indications that some people wanted to make money out of suffering, disease, pain and anguish.

The Government's savage cuts were creating bitterness within the regional health authorities. The Government seemed to be intent on creating unemployment in the NHS. It was determined to have the cuts and as long as these were successful it did not mind even if the patients died.

There was silent pain among the old and the poverty-stricken and the young.

Lord Gleave, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said that the debate on the health service must be on the basis of fact and sound reasoning rather than on wild allegations, misrepresentation, and even unsubstantiated claims.

The Labour Party had tried to demonstrate by the power of rhetoric alone that the NHS was being brought to its knees. They had to rely on rhetoric because the facts did not substantiate their claims.

This year the Government would be spending at a record level on the NHS - more than £15,000m, double what was spent in 1979-79. The economic cost of the NHS was up by about 17.5 per cent since then.

The cash provided by the Government, together with the improvements in efficiency it had asked authorities to make, should allow for growth in services of some 7 per cent since 1979-79.

Not only had the Government demonstrated its commitment to the NHS with additional resources over the past four years but it had also ensured the NHS made more effective use of those resources.

No one could seriously argue that

a reduction of one half of one per cent in manpower meant the collapse of the NHS. The pay bill accounted for such a high proportion of expenditure that effective control of resources must mean control of manpower.

It was not enough simply to call for more resources to remedy the deficiencies. The money available for the NHS depended upon the performance of the national economy. Calls for unlimited additional resources were no good. The Government had put forward its strategy and had made significant progress towards meeting its objectives.

Lord Diamond, leader of the SDP peer, said the Government said it was not cutting back because it was maintaining the health service in total and undiminished. That was an absurd claim.

During the election, the Government had not once said, as it should have done, that some services would have to suffer. Some diminution in the interests of others, services which were going over the top. Instead, people were told the health service was safe in the Government's hands.

During the election the Government did not tell the electorate its full intentions and after the election it chose to prefer tax cuts to the promised maintenance of social services.

Lord Gleave, Under Secretary of State for Health and Social Security, said that the debate on the health service must be on the basis of fact and sound reasoning rather than on wild allegations, misrepresentation, and even unsubstantiated claims.

The Labour Party had tried to demonstrate by the power of rhetoric alone that the NHS was being brought to its knees. They had to rely on rhetoric because the facts did not substantiate their claims.

This year the Government would be spending at a record level on the NHS - more than £15,000m, double what was spent in 1979-79. The economic cost of the NHS was up by about 17.5 per cent since then.

The cash provided by the Government, together with the improvements in efficiency it had asked authorities to make, should allow for growth in services of some 7 per cent since 1979-79.

Not only had the Government demonstrated its commitment to the NHS with additional resources over the past four years but it had also ensured the NHS made more effective use of those resources.

No one could seriously argue that

and would continue to fall as a result of the cuts being made. Cuts could not be expected to come much from administration which accounted for about 2.5p in every pound devoted to the NHS. Hospital administration was small and was already stretched to its absolute limit. The bulk of administration costs arose at regional and ministerial levels. What economy measures were they taking?

The future was frightening for those involved in the health service and those who cared deeply about their local health services, which were being run on a shoestring. They were perilously close to the Victorian value of recreating two nations for the sick, handicapped and aged.

The Bishop of Southwark, the Rt Rev Ronald Bousley, said morale was low among workers in hospitals and even in primary health care and GPs. It was the cumulative effect of constant reorganization, shortage of staff, devaluation of administrators in general and now a succession of ill-explained cuts. This had all been enormously depressing.

He recognized the resources were always finite, but the assumption that taxation must be reduced at the expense of a strong health service was not shared by the majority of people.

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Mr John Selwyn Gummer, Minister of State for Employment, said the Government's whole approach to the question of public funds had been based on giving the trade unionists the right to decide how he wished his union to proceed. It was right that over such an important matter there should be a review every ten years.

The Government would not be in power unless it was not for the votes of trade unionists. The division tonight was not between those who sought to emasculate the trade union movement and those who championed its independence, although that was the caricature that would appear in tomorrow's Morning Star. (Conservative cheer and loud Labour protests.)

New peers

Lord Stafford, formerly Mr Albert Stafford, Labour MP for Camden, St Pancras, North and Kent, was introduced into the House of Lords as a new peer.

Mr Alfred Morris also asked the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, Mr Geoffrey Howe, to give, in deciding not to refer the purchase of The Sunday Times by Mr Rupert Murdoch to the Monopolies Commission, to the income that would accrue from independent dividends from the holdings in Reuters of The Times and The Sunday Times and to the potential sale value of the shares.

Mr Alexander Fletcher, Under-Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, in a written reply, said: All relevant financial matters were considered in the light of the information available at the time and in accordance with the Fair Trading Act 1973.

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## Figures that smack more of alchemy

## EEC FINANCE

New proposals by the European Commission on Britain's contributions to the EEC were quite unacceptable to the Government and smacked more of alchemy than accountancy, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, said during Commons questions.

The Commission's proposals, he added, departed from the basis on which the net contribution had been assessed for the past four years, a system which was agreed by the Council of Ministers as a whole and which was based on refunds to both the United Kingdom and the Federal Republic of Germany.

He was replying to Mr Bryan Gould (Dagenham, Lab) who said it was clear from the Commission's budget proposals of yesterday that talking tough with the Commission was getting Britain precisely nowhere. The only chance we have of bringing the budget and the common agricultural policy under proper control is to refuse to the EEC any further contribution from this country's own resources.

Mr Robert Jackson (Wantage, C): Does this event not tell us that, although we have made progress, there is some further way to go? Would he not concede that all shades of opinion in this House condemn this eleven hour change

in a definition which has been in existence for the past four years?

Mr Rifkind: There is now virtual unanimity among the member governments of the EEC that there is justification for a change in the system to ensure Britain does not bear a disproportionate burden. The proposals represent a new interpretation of the existing situation.

Mr Peter Harnden (Horsham, C): Not only are the Commission's proposals unacceptable, but there can be no question of increasing the Community's own resources unless an equitable contribution is made.

Mr Rifkind: The Government would not consider an increase in the own resources of the Community unless there is satisfactory agreement reached both on Britain's contribution to the Community budget, but on control of agricultural expenditure.

If agreement was reached on these matters, we would be prepared to consider the reasons why other states being an increase in own resources is justified.

Mr Robin Cook, Opposition spokesman on European and Community Affairs, (Livingston): This shows the Commission is at least as adept in manipulating the budgetary figures as the Government is in fiddling the unemployment figures.

Mr Rifkind: The government continues to hope these matters will be resolved at the summit in Athens.

Oral contraceptives

The Department of Health and Social Security guidelines to general practitioners on prescription of oral contraceptives to girls under 16 are to be reconsidered following the outcome of current local action. Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said in a written reply. He added that the present guidance stressed the importance of obtaining parental consent in almost all cases.

Mr Roger Freeman (Kettering, C), said the purpose was to give some justice to members of private sector occupational schemes who left companies before retirement.

Ministers and officials feared that Sir Oswald Mosley's British Union of Fascists might try to subvert the Armed Forces, according to the newly declassified Home Office papers on the fascist movement in the 1930s.

In 1934, Mosley set up a private dining club to sell fascist ideas to the British Establishment, and M15 and the Special Branch kept a close watch on its guest lists.

The club, based in a Mayfair flat and offering dinners at the Hotel Splendide, attracted several senior military officers and aristocrats. The presence at one dinner of Captain Basil Liddell Hart, military historian and sometime writer for The Times was noted along with that of Lord Russell of Liverpool who later went on to write about the Nazi regime.

Sir John Gilmour the Home Secretary, received a report in 1934 which said: "These diners brought fascism to the notice of a large number of people who would have considered such less favourably if their activities had been confined to those which are ordinarily directed from the Black House

## Gummer speech protest

## POINT OF ORDER

A Labour MP said it was wrong that Mr John Selwyn Gummer, who is chairman of the Conservative Party in addition to being a Minister of State for Employment, should have wound up yesterday's debate on second reading of the Trade Union Bill.

Mr David Winnick (Walsall North, Lab), on a point of order, asked if the matter could be referred to the Committee of Privileges. He said the Bill dealt directly with the finances of the main Opposition party, yet Mr Gummer, as Tory party chairman, spent much of his time helping to raise money for Conservative Party.

That minister said Mr Winnick has, therefore, a particular interest in doing what he can to undermine the finances of the Labour Party. This is an important House of Commons point and not simply a party point.

Mr Gummer should constantly be on their guard against any practice which bordered on the corrupt. Mr Gummer was paid £3,000 a year from public funds. Yet he had wound up such a Bill for the Government.

The Royal Commission report on standards in public life in 1976 had said that being an MP carried a duty to maintain the highest standards of probity.

Mr Speaker (Mr Bernard Weatherill) said matters referred to the Committee of Privileges had to be put in writing now, and he had no jurisdiction over who answered from either front bench. He hoped he had already made the position of the House clear in an earlier statement saying that interests not already known should always be declared. Mr Gummer's position as Conservative party chairman had been well known.

subsequently has said the assault turned him into a socialist and a Roman Catholic. Lord Longford complained.

Sir John Simon, the Home Secretary. But in confidential reports the chief constable of Oxford blamed the hecklers, who included Mr Richard Crossman, an Oxford academic, and Mr Patrick Gordon-Walker, both Labour Cabinet ministers in later life. The police reports say ominously that both men had been active in local strikes and "associate" with active Communists.

On the basis of the confidential report the Home Secretary told Lord Longford he could take no action.

Other evidence of the extent of official scrutiny of extremist political movements in the 1930s comes from the several files on William Joyce, a fascist who broadcast to Britain from Germany during the Second World War as "Lord Haw Haw". A file on Joyce from the Special Branch, dated June 1937, says that he first came to the branch's attention as early as 1924 and had been under surveillance since.

Elsewhere, an M15 report

speculates that Joyce's extremist attitude, notably towards the Communists, probably stemmed from an election brawl, when his face had been cut from "mouth to ear" by anti-fascists.

Joyce's personality is not underestimated by the secret watchers who say one point predict that he would take over leadership of the BUF from Mosley. But in 1936 the reports chronicle that Joyce has been asked to take a reduction in pay at BUF headquarters because subsidies from Mussolini were thought to be running out.

According to papers at the Public Record Office, Kew, anxiety about the rise of fascism rarely extended to the Cabinet.

Cabinet minutes from the period 1934 onwards suggest strongly that the Government's main worry was public order and the BUF was perceived as a threat.

As early as the summer of 1934 there is Cabinet discussion about whether any law in need to strengthen police power on marches and uniforms. But the Cabinet is given a warning that MPs would not vote for a major change in the law at that point.

However, by 1936, after the BUF had concentrated its attentions on stirring anti-semitism in the east end of London and there had been several violent events, the Cabinet decided, apparently without

## N Sea oil projects being reconsidered

## TAXATION

There was clear evidence that companies were already reconsidering North Sea projects previously put aside as uneconomic, Mr John Moore, Financial Secretary, Treasury, said when he moved the second reading of the Oil Taxation Bill. It changes the relief for exploration and development.

The provisions of the Bill were highly technical. Most of them had

significantly over the next few years. It was generally accepted that the next generation of oil fields in the North Sea would be smaller than the present ones.

North Sea had been reached where intense effort was being made in the neglected territories.

Every encouragement should be given to recovering all these assets from beneath the sea. The extra relief in the Bill should help to do this and the tax effect would be beneficial.

Mr Jeffrey Reeker, an Opposition spokesman on Treasury and economic affairs (Birmingham, Perry Barr, Lab), said the oil taxation situation had exactly the same ingredients as his previous role on social security: large amounts of money, billions of pounds arithmetic, and consequently an empty House.

The point of development in the Mr Trevor Skeet (North Bedfordshire, C) said there should be an incremental investment allowance for secondary and tertiary recovery to ensure that an oil field was drilled as far as modern technology would allow.

Mr James Wallace (Orkney and Shetland, L) said he regretted that the opportunity given by oil revenues had been missed. They had the opportunity to invest in national infrastructure.

Sir William Clark (Croydon South, C) welcomed the Bill but felt the Government should think afresh about rollover relief for the oil industry.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline West, Lab) said oil was being produced at a rate far in excess of domestic requirements.

The Bill was read a second time, and passed its remaining stages.

much discussion, to ban the wearing of uniforms and agreed the Public Order Act, 1936, which passed into law in less than a month.

Lord Ravensdale, the author Mr Nicholas Mosley and the eldest son of the fascist leader, said yesterday that nothing should stop the Home Secretary declassifying the rest of the Mosley papers, especially those relating to Sir Oswald's wartime interrogation and imprisonment.

The unreleased papers would probably shed light on the identity of the mole who supplied M15 with its detailed intelligence on fascist activities in the 1930s. Mosley believed

Anti-fascists: Lord Longford (left) who was assaulted; Mr Patrick Gordon-Walker (centre) and Mr Richard Crossman.

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## Moves to protect asbestos workers

The Yorkshire Television film *Asbestos: A fight for life* told blatant lies about TUA Industrial Products Ltd which had a factory in Rochdale, Mr Cyril Smith (Rochdale, L) said in the Commons



# Alfonsín pledges to seek peaceful solution to Falklands dispute

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Señor Raul Alfonsín, who will become Argentina's first civilian President for nearly eight years when he takes office on December 10, has said that his government "will use all the diplomatic means at our disposal to achieve a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom".

In his first public statement on the Falklands issue since he won a surprisingly comfortable victory in the elections 10 days ago, Señor Alfonsín said: "We are convinced that negotiations between the two countries under the good offices of the Secretary-General of the United Nations are the appropriate way to solve this dispute in a just and permanent fashion."

He added that such discussions would have to be "within the framework of the pertinent UN resolutions, and specifically Resolution 37/9 of the General Assembly". Señor Alfonsín did not mention the possibility of signing a formal

# Algerian leader thaws out French

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

President Bendjedid Chadli of Algeria will fly home today after an official visit to France that has done much to reduce the bitterness left by French colonial rule and the struggle for independence, which ended two decades ago.

The visit, the first by an Algerian head of state, started with a starry protocol on Monday, when Mr Chadli and his entourage were welcomed at Orly airport by President Mitterrand, M Pierre Mauroy, the Prime Minister, and members of the government.

The growing warmth of the two Presidents' feelings for each other soon turned the visit into a personal triumph for both of them.

The thaw became obvious on Tuesday, when Mr Chadli attended a reception at the Hotel Inter-Continental, near the Place de la Concorde, for 1,500 members of the Algerian community - workers, doctors, lawyers, artists, entertainers, bankers and businessmen.

At first, formality prevailed, as Mr Chadli and M Mitterrand welcomed guests and complimented each other's countries. Then M Mitterrand said: "Mr President, I want to meet your fellow countrymen."

After a moment, though that time was not in the script, Mr Chadli answered: "Of course, of course. They're waiting for us."

Flanked by security men, the two presidents went to a balcony overlooking the hall-room and the crowd below greeted them with loud applause. Mr Chadli spoke first, in Arabic. The burden of his speech was the past is past, so let us now build the future.

M Mitterrand replied: "We reject racism and intolerance. France remains hospitable. As brothers, we can speak freely to each other, observe each other's laws, habits and morals, and put before everything our good feelings and mutual respect."

Yesterday, after driving along a flag-decked Champs Elysees, and blocking traffic in much of central Paris, Mr Chadli met M Jacques Chirac, Mayor of Paris.

Behind the glitter and pomp the two leaders were preoccupied by pressing matters.



Symbol of friendship: President Chadli of Algeria (centre) after laying a wreath yesterday at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Paris.

# Zimbabwe accused of raid into Botswana

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A Botswana Defence Force unit has clashed with a Zimbabwean raiding party which apparently crossed into Botswana in pursuit of "dissidents", the term used by the Zimbabwean Government for insurgents in the western province of Matabeleland.

According to Major-General Mampoti Merafhe, the commander of the BDF, the incident occurred at about 7 am on Tuesday near Maitengwe after a BDF patrol found footprints crossing from Zimbabwe into Botswana.

The patrol followed the footprints for about two and a half miles into Botswana until it came under rifle-grenade and mortar-shell fire from a contingent of about 30 soldiers of the Zimbabwe National Army. The BDF said that its men returned the fire but had to withdraw when the Zimbabweans called in two helicopters. There were no casualties.

Early last month, a group of Zimbabwe soldiers were accused by Botswana of assaulting the headman of Busale's Village and of interrogating villagers about the whereabouts of "dissidents". The Zimbabweans denied responsibility for the incident.

Botswana maintains that it does not harbour Zimbabwean "dissidents" and provides shelter only to civilian refugees from the Matabeleland fighting.

THE ZIMBABWEAN CATEGORICALLY DENIED THAT ITS FORCES HAD CLASHED WITH TROOPS OF A NEIGHBOUR IN THE SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COORDINATION CONFERENCE and a fellow member of the Commonwealth (Stephen Taylor writes).

A statement by the Ministry of Defence said that in the past week "sizeable gangs" of anti-government guerrillas had tried to infiltrate Zimbabwe using Botswana as a springboard. It added: "Recent action by Zimbabwe units crushed these attempts. Those dissidents not killed returned to Botswana."



Alfonsín's new faces: Señor Caputo, Foreign Minister (left), Grinspun, Economy, and Tróccoli, Interior.

# Argentina pushes for diplomatic victory

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Last-minute lobbying by Britain and Argentina was under way yesterday as the United Nations General Assembly prepared to debate the Falklands dispute. Argentina was again certain to win diplomatically what it had lost on the battlefield.

Its position, which calls for resumption of negotiations with Britain on sovereignty over the islands, was expected to be further strengthened by the election of a new Argentine Government apparently free from military shackles. Last year in the assembly Argentina secured a 90-12 majority with 52 abstentions.

Britain hoped at best to prevent erosion of support for its stand. Abstentions are regarded as tacit approval for Britain's contention that Argentina should not be rewarded for having resorted to force last year.

Argentina has been working hard for the European votes, which in political terms should automatically go to Britain, but which last year went into the abstentions.

Britain's lobbying strategy has been to reinforce the view that the newly-elected Argentine Government should not be sent an erroneous signal by the assembly.

British diplomats have emphasized not only the paramount importance of self-determination but also that its overtures to Argentina on normalization of relations have been spurned.

It was, nevertheless, thought to be an uphill struggle for Britain.

The United States was again thought likely to vote in favour of negotiations on sovereignty, which Britain claims is an Argentine stratagem for talks with a predetermined outcome.

# UN fears more US invasions

From Our Correspondent, New York

The American-led invasion of Grenada has done much to increase anxiety in Latin America and its implications for Nicaragua were on the minds of many speakers in the General Assembly's debate yesterday on the crisis in the region.

Mexico said on Tuesday that a unilateral attempt was under way to impose a solution in Central America with the growing number of military bases, and covert action against Nicaragua. It implied that the pretext and principles used to justify intervention in Grenada could be invoked in Central America.

The United States responded by again raising questions about the legitimacy of the Sandanista leadership in Nicaragua. Mrs Jeane Kirkpatrick, the US representative, said Nicaragua was only a "pawn in a larger game" and its stance was a mixture of "bravado and paranoia" designed to justify greater internal control.

# Setback for Shagari

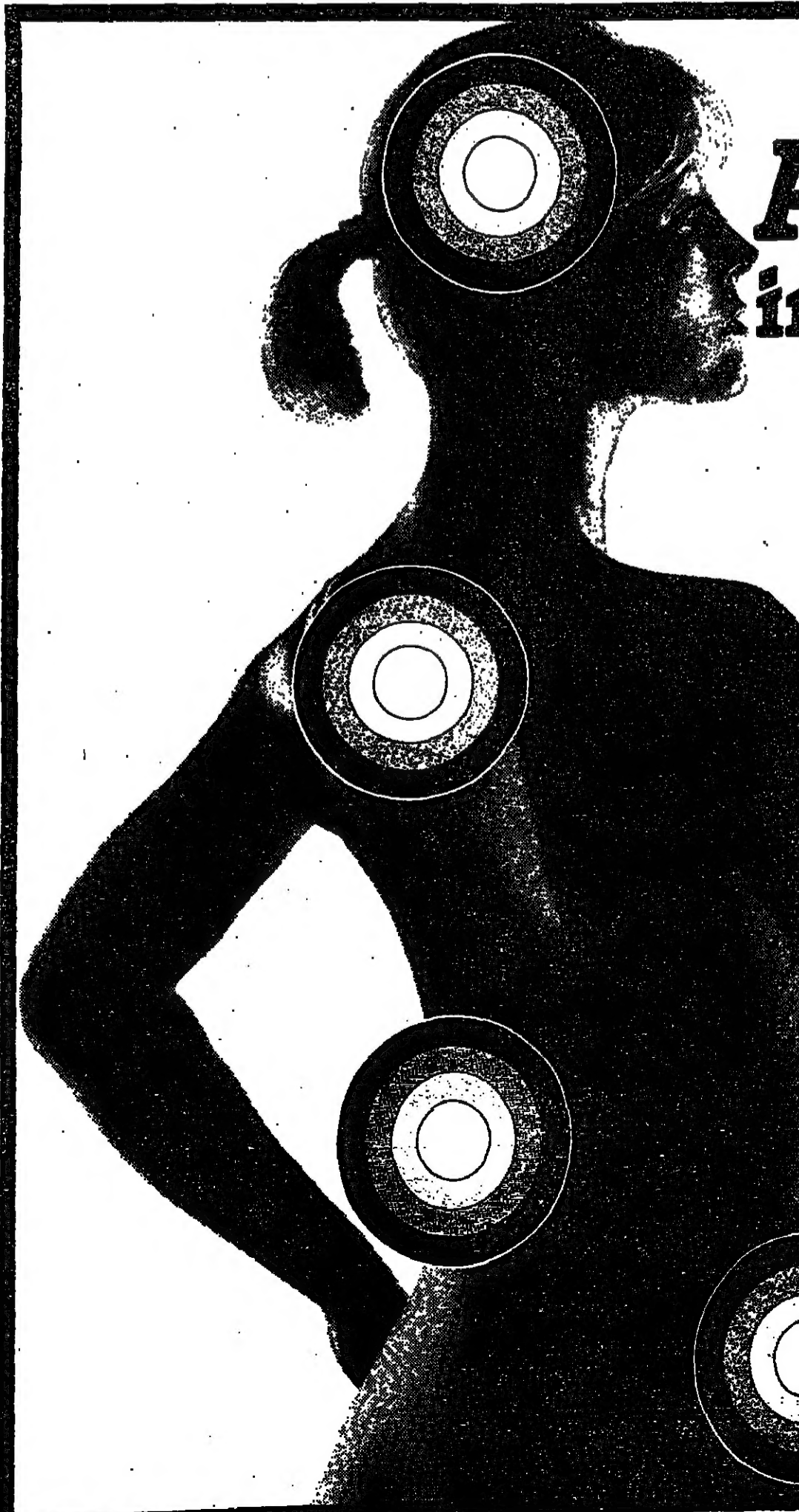
By Kenneth Mackenzie

The Nigerian Senate has refused to approve six of 35 proposed ministers submitted by President Shehu Shagari.

This is regarded as a serious setback for the President, who was re-elected for a second four-year term five weeks ago and was planning a major reorganization of the executive. Only seven of the old ministers were proposed for reappointment.

All 35 were cross-examined by a committee of 13 in a week's televised sessions.

The President is expected to resubmit some of the names. In the meantime he will allocate portfolios to the 29 who have passed the scrutiny.



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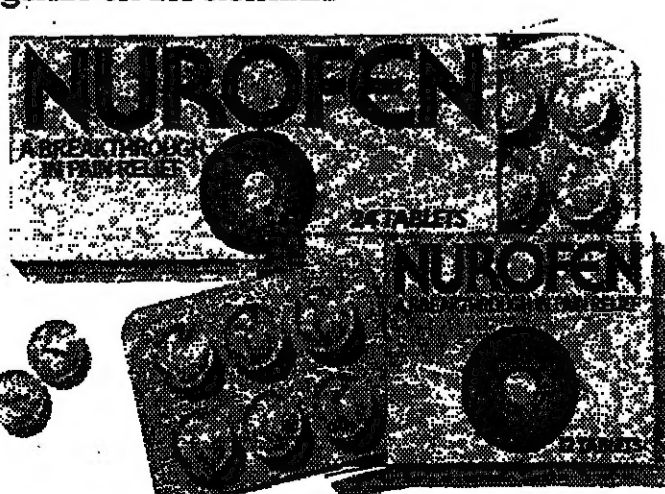
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## Crisis in Lebanon

## Israel welcomes PLO strife and prospect of Syrian control

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

The Israeli Government is delighted at the plight of Mr Yassir Arafat in the Palestinian civil war and the prospect that he will be replaced by a Palestinian Liberation Organization leadership under the domination of Syria.

Government sources have let it be known that Mr Arafat is still regarded as a bitter enemy of Israel and that attempts will be made to capture him if any vessel carrying him should try to sail through Israeli waters. There had been reports that Israel might grant him safe passage to Egypt.

A government official told *The Times* yesterday: "As far as Israel and the peace process is concerned, what is happening is a plus in every direction. The idea harboured by some European governments that Mr Arafat was some kind of moderate was a total myth, but because some people believed it, it made him especially dangerous."

"He was clever enough to hide his true intentions behind empty rhetoric, which fooled many in the free world. In truth, his ultimate goal, like all members of the PLO, was to work for the destruction of Israel and its eventual replacement. With his successors, there will no longer be any room for doubt."

The official said the battles in and around Tripoli had posed a dilemma for Israeli ministers, who welcomed what was taking place, but had been wary of making speeches lest they should be seen as openly supporting the actions of Syria, Israel's main enemy in the Arab world.

Another reason is speculation about whether Mr Arafat will somehow exorcise himself and retain his influence. His return to prominence after his expulsion from Lebanon and from Beirut are cited in this context.

The official - whose thinking is close to the Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Prime Minister said: "direct Syrian control of the PLO will be beneficial for us for a number of reasons. For a start, if any terrorist action is taken against Israelis, we shall have a direct address where to react, rather than the situation after the Tyre atrocity of trying to establish whether Syria was involved or not."

"Secondly, our experience has shown that Syria can keep a firm hand on the Palestinian terrorists if it is in her interests to do so. Despite the fierce rhetoric from Damascus, there has been no attack against us from the Golan Heights for 10 years."

The Israelis attribute Mr Arafat's plight directly to their invasion of Lebanon last year and continue to predict eventual decline of the PLO. "We feel what has been happening is a vindication of both our actions and our point of view," the official said. "We have always said they were a gang of thugs and murderers motivated by hatred and now people have been able to see night after night on their television screens that we were right."

For the 1,300,000 Palestinians who have lived under Israeli rule for the past 16 years, the fighting has caused shock, despair and grief. A survey published yesterday by the east Jerusalem magazine *Al Awdah* showed that the great majority were supporters of Mr Arafat.

Mr Redwan Abu-Ayash, the editor, said: "People still cannot believe what has happened. They are stunned."

● **ATHENS:** The members of the European Community, in an appeal to the warring factions in northern Lebanon for reason and moderation,

reaffirmed their support for the self-determination of the Palestinian people "with all that this implies" (Mario Modiano writes).

The joint statement was issued yesterday by Greece, president of the council. A government spokesman said it was the result of consultations prompted by an appeal from Mr Arafat.

The Ten appealed for "an immediate cessation of hostilities."

● **LONDON:** There had been no European voice on Lebanon, even though the European view paying more regard to the position of Syria in the conflict, was the right view, Dr David Owen, leader of the Social Democratic Party, said in a speech to the parliamentary press gallery at Westminster yesterday (John Winder writes).

At the ready: An Arafat supporter keeping a sharp watch in Tripoli.

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## Spain's hard left boycotts job talks

From Our Own Correspondent Madrid

Negotiations between Spain's Socialist Government and the trade unions on restructuring the country's crisis-ridden industry went ahead yesterday for the second day without the influential Communist-run workers' commissions.

Hard-line Communist leaders used the pretext of a dispute with Senator Carlos Solchaga, the Industry Minister, to stay away and are thought to be keeping out of the talks deliberately to dissociate themselves from the large-scale job-shedding, affecting perhaps as many as 200,000 workers, that the restructuring could involve.

The Communist leader of the metal workers, Señor Juan Marin, the man at the centre of the dispute with Señor Solchaga, threatened yesterday to mobilize workers throughout industry against the Government.

In an evident trial of strength, the entire Communist union leadership is backing the metal workers' leader, who has refused to apologise to Señor Solchaga for joining in a sit-in at the Ministry

## Arms Bill passed by Senate

From Mohsin Ali Washington

The Senate has approved a \$253,000m (£168,000m) defence spending Bill for the fiscal year 1984 giving President Reagan money for virtually all the big weapons programmes he wanted, including the controversial MX missile, the B1 strategic bomber and nerve gas weapons.

The full Appropriation Bill was passed by 86 to six by a Republican-controlled Senate on Tuesday night and it increases defence spending by 4 per cent over 1983.

Earlier, Vice-President George Bush cast a tie-breaking vote, 37 to 46, as he did in July, to provide money for the production of chemical weapons.

But the House of Representatives (with a Democrat majority) refused to appropriate the nerve gas production money last week.

● **WELLINGTON:** An armada of protest boats forced the US nuclear-powered submarine Phoenix to stop twice as she entered Auckland harbour yesterday (W. P. Reeves writes).

## Thatcher on the world stage: Cold winds in America, warm front in Germany

## Change of tune puzzles Washington pundits

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

A question increasingly being heard around Washington is what is Mrs Thatcher up to. American officials, some puzzled, others angry, are trying to deduce why the Prime Minister has suddenly changed roles from being the Reagan Administration's most reliable ally to one of its most outspoken critics.

When Mrs Thatcher initially expressed her reservations about the US-led invasion of Grenada - or "rescue mission" as it is now being officially described - most (although not all) American officials were tolerant of her lack of support, believing that she would change her position once the extent of Cuba's involvement in Grenada became clear.

However, in her question-and-answer session on the BBC World Service and her interview with Sir David English, the editor of the *Daily Mail*, she appeared to stiffen rather than tone down her criticism.

She has now broadened the area of disagreement between London and Washington by making it clear to Mr Kenneth Dam, the Deputy Secretary who is on a fence-mending visit to Europe, that American retaliatory action in Lebanon or a resumption of US arms sales to Argentina would further damage Anglo-American relations.

Officially the American position is that the relationship between Britain and the US remains fundamentally sound. US officials point to Mrs Thatcher's determination to go ahead with the deployment of cruise missiles next month as underlining this.

However, they do not try to hide the fact that the reaction of Mrs Thatcher and her ministers to the Grenada operation has given a severe jolt to what the British still fondly like to refer to as "the special relationship".

Official indignation at what is increasingly perceived as British pusillanimity has spilled over into the press, sections of which have unfavourably contrasted Britain's reaction over Grenada with US support for Britain during the Falklands War.

In an editorial entitled "fair-weather allies", the *Wall Street Journal* said that US backing for Britain last year had cost the US valuable Argentine support in confronting the Cuban-Soviet build-up in the western hemisphere, yet Grenada under a Marxist Government was "a worse place than the Falkland Islands under Argentina's General Galtieri".

In the *Washington Post*, Mr

## Russia pressed to persist in Geneva negotiations

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

The best Christmas present President Yuri Andropov could give the West would be dismantling the Soviet SS20 missiles and accepting the zero option. Mrs Thatcher told a press conference yesterday at the end of her consultations here with Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

Admitting she was less optimistic than the Chancellor that this was likely, she said it would be quite wrong for the Russians to break off the Geneva negotiations if the West went ahead with deployment of cruise and Pershing 2 missiles. The West had gone on talking while the Soviet Union had deployed SS20 missiles at the rate of one a week, and it still had the will to persist in negotiations.

Mrs Thatcher rejected any inclusion of the British and French missiles in the Geneva talks; they were strategic weapons, and for every one Britain had, the Russians had 40. Britain had Polaris missiles to

deter a Soviet attack before the SS20s were deployed and it would be "absurd" to trade off a small irreducible minimum.

Only if the Russians were willing to sit down at the negotiating table to discuss ways of reducing strategic weapons was Britain ready to play its role in the disarmament process.

The important thing, she added, was to get from Geneva a result that left a balance that could be verified. "We have the will to persist in negotiations and do most urgently seek a result that allows us to keep our defence and security at a lower level of weaponry."

Dr Kohl again emphasized Bonn's readiness to deploy cruise and Pershing if necessary, but insisted that talks should go on afterwards. He hoped for results at the Stockholm disarmament conference and continued East-West dialogue.

Both leaders agreed that this fourteenth round of the six-monthly Anglo-German talks

was especially important because of the deployment issue. Mrs Thatcher also underlined the urgency of finding a solution to the financing of the European Community.

At the Athens summit she wanted three things to be made clear: Britain's wish for an equitable limit to the financial burdens on each member state, based on ability to pay, strict control over agriculture and other Community expenditure, the accession of Spain and Portugal to the Community.

She refused to speculate on what would happen if Britain's budget demands were not met. On Lebanon, Mrs Thatcher did not repeat her warning against American retaliation for the Beirut bombings, but said each force in Lebanon had the right of self-defence.

Rebuffing suggestions of a damaging rift with Washington, Mrs Thatcher added: "The wider Atlantic alliance is in good heart and good health." Andropov's first year, page 8



Minding her step: Mrs Thatcher and Chancellor Kohl off to review an honour guard in Bonn.

## Grantham's German twin revels in its big day

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

Grantham is mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, and received a Royal Charter in 1463. St Augustin was invented as a town in 1969 and was formally empowered with city rights in 1977. And yesterday Mrs Thatcher, Grantham's illustrious daughter, paid tribute to the quixotic twinning of the Lincolnshire market town with a dormitory suburb of Bonn.

Although she might have liked to highlight Anglo-German relations by dwelling on St Augustin's conversion of the English to Christianity, in fact the local monastery, after which the town is named, was founded in 1912 in honour of St Augustine of Hippo, a fourth-century North African bishop.

But Mrs Thatcher found a lot else to illustrate the links with Britain as she signed the book of honour and received a golden coin and Charter of Partnership at yesterday's ceremonies. It was the German scouts who really discovered

the affinity with Grantham and formal links were built on these flourishing youth exchanges.

They now include busloads of St Augustin pensioners who visit Grantham each summer and regular contacts in sport and culture. Male choir, lord mayors and civic dignitaries come from Grantham for the September festival in St Augustin.

Germans take twinning seriously, none more so than Herr Karl Gatzweiler, the *Bürgermeister*, and Mrs Thatcher's host for this occasion. A genial forerunner, he led the fight of seven little villages against the threatened absorption into Greater Bonn in 1969 and masterminded their fusion into the newest of new towns.

He sees value in the extraordinary contrasts between the two places. St Augustin, with its planned shopping complex, high-rise blocks and neat clusters of houses for affluent bureaucrats, is unashamedly dependent on Bonn near by.

## Cuba and Grenada 'lost' 231 troops in invasion

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

Four times as many Cuban and Grenadian troops may have been killed during last month's American-led invasion of Grenada than the Reagan administration has so far admitted.

According to Major General Norman Schwarzkopf, the deputy commander of the invasion, 160 Grenadian soldiers and 71 Cubans were killed during the fighting. The official Pentagon toll is 59 enemy soldiers dead and 57 wounded.

General Schwarzkopf said during a two-and-a-half-hour briefing at Hunter Army Base in Georgia that his figures were "rough estimates" compiled from battle reports. He explained that the Pentagon figure may be low because American commanders decided to deemphasize body counts because of unpleasant memories of Vietnam.

● **ST GEORGE'S:** American loss of life and equipment in the invasion of Grenada was much higher than officially admitted, according to a highly-placed source in the Caribbean security forces yesterday (Trevor Fishlock writes).

The Americans lost 42 men killed rather than the 18 officially admitted. A number of wounded are in a serious condition. Letters, page 13

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Wanted baby: Thirty people immediately offered help when a Miami hospital appealed for a foster home for this 14-month-old girl suffering from the fatal disease AIDS.

Her mother, a Haitian immigrant aged 33, died of the disease three weeks ago and the father has disappeared.

The little girl has probably no more than three years to live. Her hospital bill totals more than \$57,000 (\$38,000 and health officials want to discontinue payments, which amount to \$437 a day.

● **COUSTEAU BRAVES STORM** Paris (Reuters) - Jacques-Yves Cousteau, the ecologist-explorer, said yesterday that his revolutionary wind-powered catamaran had exceeded all expectations on its maiden transatlantic voyage, despite storm damage in recent days.

The 73-year-old explorer, speaking to a Paris press conference by satellite from the

## Women and blacks win in US polls

From Our Own Correspondent Washington

Blacks and women did well in a series of gubernatorial and mayoral elections which were held across the US on Tuesday.

In Philadelphia, Mr Wilson Goode, son of a Southern sharecropper, became the city's first black mayor, easily defeating two white opponents. A precedent was achieved in Charlotte, North Carolina, where Mr Harvey Gantt was elected mayor in a record voter turn-out.

In Gary, Indiana, Mr Richard Hatcher, the first black to be elected mayor of a major American city, was re-elected for a fifth term.

All the black victors were Democrats. Mr Goode's success in Philadelphia means that three of the four largest US cities now have black mayors. The other two are Chicago and Los Angeles. There is a strong chance that Boston may elect its first black mayor next Tuesday.

In Kentucky, Mrs Martha Collins became the only US woman governor by easily defeating her Republican opponent.

However, in Georgia, Mrs Kathryn McDonald failed in her attempt to win the Congressional seat held by her husband, Larry, who was killed in the Korean airliner disaster in September.

In Mississippi, Mr Bill Allain, a Democrat, was elected governor after a campaign in which supporters of his opponent accused him of having sex with black male prostitutes.

## Former CIA agent jailed for 25 years

New York (AP) - Edward Wilson, the former Central Intelligence Agency agent already serving time in jail for selling explosives to Libya, was sentenced yesterday to 25 years for trying to murder two US federal prosecutors, a business associate and five government witnesses.

The judge said he showed "utter disrespect and contempt for law and for human life" in his attempt to murder some of the prosecutors and witnesses who uncovered evidence leading to his earlier convictions. Wilson was said to have tried to convince prison inmates to murder those he had targeted. He was also fined \$75,000 (about £30,000).

## Gunmen murder Peru mayor

Lima (AP) - Left-wing guerrillas assassinated a government party mayor in central Peru amid reports of stepped-up insurgency aimed at disrupting Sunday's nationwide municipal elections.

Police in Cerro de Pasco, 190 miles from Lima, said that gunmen shot and killed Senator Victor Arza Vicuña as he left his office. The 36-year-old dentist was the second mayor killed by Maoist guerrillas of the Shining Path movement.

## Police chief sentenced

Logano (Reuters) - Gualtieri Medici, a Swiss police chief, was given a suspended three-month prison sentence for carrying out economic espionage for Italy last year.

He had already been fined for passing to Italian secret police details of Swiss investigations into Roberto Calvi, the banker found hanged in London.

## Flynt ejected



Mr Larry Flynt, who was removed from the Supreme Court in Washington after he had interrupted a hearing of a libel case brought against his magazine *Hustler* by rival publication *Penthouse*. He screamed obscenities at the judges.

## Sausage scandal

Mainz (Reuters) - Six meat wholesalers and a veterinarian, accused of unloading kangaroo, mule, horse, donkey and antelope meat on unsuspecting consumers, went on trial here in West Germany's biggest meat fraud case. The meat was sold mainly to sausage makers and large works canteens.

## Priest shot

Guatemala City (AFP) - Father Augusto Ramirez Monasterio, aged 40, the superior at a Franciscan monastery, was "sadistically" murdered here, the archbishop's palace reported. He was shot several times and dragged along the road before being thrown from a moving car.

## Blow to Palme

Stockholm - Sweden's Socialist Government suffered a serious blow when Mr Ove Rainer, a personal friend of Mr Olof Palme, the Prime Minister, was forced to resign as Minister of Justice after being accused of massive tax evasion by the evening newspaper *Aftonbladet*.

## Refugees raped

Jakarta (AFP) - Eighty Vietnamese refugees who arrived in Indonesia packed on board a 40ft boat were attacked by Thai pirates during their week-long journey and the women raped, a refugee official said here.

## Savings eaten

Nairobi (AP) - A cotton farmer who had saved 2,000 Kenyan shillings (about £100) to pay for his wedding lost all when white ants ate through the banknotes which he had buried for safe keeping.

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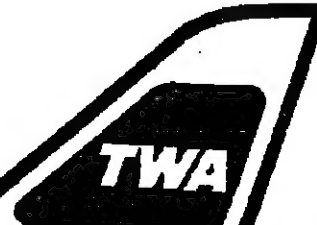
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# TO ALL HOUSE OF FRASER SHAREHOLDERS

FROM LORD DUNCAN-SANDYS C. H. AND R. W. ROWLAND,  
DIRECTORS OF HOUSE OF FRASER

Certain misleading statements have been made by House of Fraser concerning the £100 million refurbishment contract awarded by House of Fraser (Stores) Ltd. to Allied International Designers Ltd. (AID). Particularly it has been stated that Lonrho had no objection to the store refurbishment plan.

To correct any misunderstanding the position on the AID's contract is as follows:-

1. The refurbishment programme was presented to the House of Fraser Board on 24th December 1982 as part of its defence of the Lonrho proposals for the demerger of Harrods.
2. The Lonrho directors on the Board of House of Fraser naturally said that they were not against the principle of refurbishment as this was a normal expense in the nature of retailing. However, concerning this particular exercise, we were deeply concerned about:-
  - a) The marketing and merchandise strategy allied to this refurbishment which had not been presented to or approved by the Board.
  - b) The financial feasibility justifying the expenditure of over £100 million which had not been considered or approved by the Board.
  - c) The initial indications which showed that many of the stores to be up-graded at considerable expense continued to show a less than ten per cent return even after expenditure.
3. Since December 1982 no consideration has been given by the Board to these crucial outstanding matters. In fact, the Board has not discussed or reviewed the contract with the firm of retail consultants, Management Horizons, nor has it seen any of their detailed reports on particular stores. Further, the contract with AID has not been seen by the Board, indeed our request to have sight of the contract has been formally declined.
4. Concerning the points of detail, it is our understanding that:-
  - a) The contract with AID is for a term of two years not five years.
  - b) The expenditure proposal of £100 million covered the refurbishment of 82 stores (excluding Harrods) and not the 50 stores indicated in press statements. No assessment has been given to the Board on the medium or long term commercial viability of any of these stores.
  - c) The capital commitments approved by the Board do not include the £100 million refurbishment programme.

We wish to make clear that in our opinion House of Fraser management must first satisfy the Board of the long term individual store viability and further, demonstrate a successful merchandising and retailing philosophy before we can endorse any capital commitment of £100 million of shareholders' resources.

9th November 1983



## Reagan relaxes in a well-policed Tokyo

## Trade tensions trouble US-Japan alliance

From David Watts

Tokyo  
President Reagan began his visit to Japan yesterday with tension in East Asia higher than at any time since the Korean War.

The shooting down of the Korean airliner and the massacre of Korean Cabinet ministers in Rangoon have combined to give impetus to the US and Japanese leaders' desire for a tighter alliance, with Japan taking greater responsibility for regional security.

The tension in the Korean peninsula was reflected in strict security in Tokyo yesterday, with about 90,000 police and riot police deployed to discourage protests.

In the event, the Japanese capital was the quietest it has ever been for a presidential visit; the student riots of the 1960s protesting against the Japan-US security treaty are a thing of the past, and yesterday's protests were confined to carefully controlled meetings by about 4,500 radicals of the left and right. Nevertheless, 600 police were guarding the Reagans in Akasaka Palace last night.

The Japan that President Reagan will see is more prosperous and pro-American than could have been imagined even five years ago. The Communist Party decided not to oppose his visit, but that does not mean the presidential party will go away with all that it hopes for.

The tone of the visit is very reflective of President Reagan's personality: warm and non-specific. But then the White House is careful to point out



West meets East: Mr and Mrs Reagan with Emperor Hirohito at an official ceremony in Tokyo.

that the aim of the four-day stay is to give impetus to the negotiations already going on over trade, the yen-dollar relationship and global security.

That there are still widely differing viewpoints on trade was clear after yesterday's talks, when the Japanese reiterated their view that the yen's weakness is largely due to high American interest rates while Washington maintains it is due to Tokyo's failure to liberalize its capital market.

The two sides, however, intended to announce the

establishment of a working group to examine the yen-dollar relationship, which the Americans hold is the cause of the US trade deficit with Japan which could reach at least \$20bn (£13 bn) this year.

Beyond that there remain the perennial tensions over Japan's inability to liberalize imports of American beef and citrus fruits, which the White House said last night must be resolved by March, a deadline which may have as much to do with American presidential campaigning

On security, one of the principal subjects for discussion, there is likely to be a good deal more agreement. The Japanese have already sought to sweeten the atmosphere by initiating the agreement to share advanced defence technology with the United States.

It is clear though, that the Japanese do not intend that the agreement will empty the whole cornucopia of defence technology for the benefit of the United States, and Japan itself will decide which items will be available to the Americans, who

are believed to be interested in Japanese anti-radar paint and laser technology.

● **SEOUL:** Riot police used their tear gas to disperse about 700 students demonstrating on a Seoul campus against President Reagan's visit to South Korea which starts Saturday (Reuters reports).

Students pelted the police with stones and wielded iron bars in clashes lasting more than two hours on the campus of the Confucius Sungkyunkwan University.

## China not budging on Hongkong's deadline

From David Bonavia

Peking

China has restated that it wants agreement with Britain on the future of Hongkong by September next year. The same position was taken by Mr Wu Xueqian, the Foreign Minister, during his visit to Canada several weeks ago, and is quite familiar to British diplomats.

The statement was reiterated by the Foreign Ministry spokesman at his routine Wednesday briefing in answer to a question China's position is that the two countries should reach general agreement on Hongkong's future by September next year or Peking will announce its own plans for the territory.

This does not affect China's known policy of recovering sovereignty over Hongkong in 1997. The Chinese Government has already disclosed its plans for a semi-autonomous Hongkong with a capitalist economy.

● **HONGKONG:** The authorities here have welcomed the appointment of Mr Richard Evans as British Ambassador to Peking in succession to Sir Percy Cradock (Richard Hughes writes).

Mr Evans, aged 57, former Deputy Under-Secretary of State (Economics) at the Foreign Office, is not well-known to the public here, but government leaders, diplomats and China-watchers in Hongkong are well aware of his record, which includes two terms of service in Peking.

## Détente goes sour

## Foreign policy runs out of steam

A year ago today President Brezhnev died. Richard Owen, Moscow Correspondent, in this first of two articles, reports on how Brezhnev's successor has dealt with the issue of the intermediate-range nuclear weapons.

Even before President Andropov fell ill and disappeared from public view, diplomats in Moscow were expressing doubts about his arms policy.

"Andropov has lost", one remarked, with no great pleasure. It must be gratifying to see the strength of anti-nuclear feeling in Europe, and Grenada is a rallying point for anti-Americanism, but the hard fact is that cruise and Pershing missiles are being wheeled into place, which is what Andropov has been trying to prevent.

Since coming to power a year ago, succeeding Brezhnev in a swift and decisive move,

ing handy anti-American ammunition.

This turn for the worse began with the Korean airliner crisis and with Mr Reagan's relentless attacks on Soviet brutality. Even before he fell seriously ill Mr Andropov seemed to have written off all hope of a meeting of minds with Mr Reagan regardless of whether or not he runs and wins next year in the presidential election.

The Soviet leader was especially incensed by Mr Reagan's apparent desire to "roll back" communism and his implied refusal to accept the legitimacy of the Soviet regime.

In this atmosphere, with no sign of agreement at the Geneva talks, cruise and Pershing have, in the Kremlin's eyes, become symbols of American power and intransigence.

Pershing 2 missiles aroused particular anxiety among the generals, since they can reach Russia in 8 to 12 minutes, leaving no time for a considered reaction (and the Kremlin is only too well aware that, under pressure, Far Eastern defences bungled the airliner incident).

It may be that Mr Andropov - or, in his continued absence, Politburo colleagues - will propose a compromise at the eleventh hour.

Soviet attention is focused on the crucial missile debate in the West German parliament in two weeks. But the eleventh hour is ticking away fast and there is no sign that Nato accepts Mr Andropov's claim that SS20 missiles (140 of them under his last proposal) should be balanced against the British and French deterrents.

The Politburo is constrained not only by "Soviet national interests", but also by the military, which does not like missile concessions.

Soviet generals are understandably reluctant to accept blame, either for the airliner crisis or for the original decision to move SS20s into Europe. Russian the mid 1970s, precipitating Nato's twin-track decision and the present crisis.

If Mr Andropov can recover sufficiently to resume full command of Soviet policy - recovering his original decisiveness and direction at the same time - there may be movement forward.

In his last statement he said Nato missile deployment would make continuation of "the present talks" impossible - a formula which combines the threat of a walkout at Geneva with the hint of other talks next year.

But that is a slim hope to set against the chances of a crisis in the Kremlin coming after a year in which East-West exchanges of invective have been so acrid and self-righteous that a Kremlin-White House dialogue looks more remote than ever.

Tomorrow: Internal affairs



ANDROPOV'S FIRST YEAR Part 1

Mr Andropov has become increasingly preoccupied with the intermediate-range missile issue.

His initial foreign policy initiatives first left the West floundering, then ran out of steam. Mr Andropov's unprecedented absence from the Red Square parade this week has cast doubt on his ability to govern.

But he first disappeared nearly three months ago, only occasionally firing off bitter statements on US and arms control.

On coming to power Mr Andropov vowed to make détente the policy of the future as well as the past. As recently as August he was receiving American visitors and talking of a possible summit with President Reagan (provided the terms were right).

But the deterioration in the Soviet leader's health has coincided with a souring of the East-West atmosphere. And there is no longer any talk of summits.

Soviet rhetoric against Mr Reagan has become vicious, depicting him as a simple-minded gangster with Nazi-like dreams of world destruction.

There has been lack of movement in other areas of Soviet policy, including China and Afghanistan. But in its relations with Washington - the heart of the matter - Moscow has moved from inappetence to the offensive, with Grenada and Lebanon provid-

## Corruption in Poland

## Ex-TV chief's lifestyle exposed to court

From Roger Boyes

Warsaw

Disclosures of corruption at the very top of the Polish establishment came thick and fast in a Warsaw courtroom yesterday as state prosecutors outlined their case against the flamboyant former chief of national television.

On trial is Maciej Szczepanski who, as chairman of the radio and television organization under the disgraced party leader, Mr Edward Giersek, helped create the so-called "Propaganda of Success" that portrayed on television screens a fictional Poland in which production records were regularly and suspiciously broken and in which party leaders were hailed as wise, infallible tribunes of the people. Mr Szczepanski used his powerful position to create for himself a lifestyle more akin to the Ottoman Empire than communist Poland. He regularly used helicopters to travel to appointments, made free use of a yacht owned technically by Polish Television, entertained potential clients with risqué video films and call girls, built splendid villas and ski chalets.

Arrested on charges of economic mismanagement and corruption in 1980 after Solidarity pressure for a clean-up campaign, Mr Szczepanski has been on trial for months. The prosecution case is now being summed up, defence speeches will be allowed and, according to court sources, a verdict should be returned in the next few weeks.

The prosecution this week is presenting detailed lists of Mr Szczepanski's alleged crimes



Mr Szczepanski: Helicopters to appointments.

which disclose a vast scope of corruption in high places. Mr Szczepanski, the prosecutor says, took 1m zloties (£7,000) or equivalent to six months' average pay) from the social welfare fund of television, spent 200,000 zloties himself gave more than 200,000 zloties to friends and acquaintances and passed on a further 400,000 zloties in bribes to high officials.

The money bought expensive gifts that were regularly given to ministers and party leaders on their birthdays (or wives' birthdays) on saints days and on any convenient pretext.

Mr Szczepanski, who during the early stages of his trial would stand up, interrupt the judge and laugh out loud at the attempts of his defence counsel, now sits rather subdued in Courtroom 246. Few people bother to attend for tales of extravagance and bribes no longer shock the Poles. His audience nowadays consists of bored lawyers and old-age pensioners sheltering from the cold.

## Filipino dissident freed

Manila. (AP) - Mr Sixto Carlos, a Filipino dissident leader who was allegedly tortured after his arrest by soldiers in 1979, has been freed by President Marcos in response to appeals from Mr Carlos's wife. A Defence Ministry an-

nouncement said that the President ordered his release "in line with the government policy of unity and reconciliation." He was the first important political prisoner released by the Government in recent years.

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## Union unlikely to establish 'trade dispute' defence in Mercury case

Mercury Communications Ltd v Stanley and Another

Before Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice May and Lord Justice Dillon

(Judgment delivered November 9)

Although there was a dispute between British Telecommunications (BT) and its employees it was most unlikely that the Post Office Engineering Union would be able to establish that there was at any material time a trade dispute between BT and its employees.

The Court of Appeal in reserved judgments allowed an appeal by Mercury Communications Ltd from Mr Justice Mervyn Davies's refusal on October 21 (1983) to grant an injunction restraining the Post Office Engineering Union and its members from, *inter alia*, inducing or procuring and/or threatening to induce or procure a breach of the contractual relations between Mercury and British Telecommunications.

Orders were made requiring the union within 48 hours to rescind all resolutions of its executive council not to cooperate with Mercury.

Costs were reserved to the trial judge and leave to appeal to the House of Lords was granted. It was indicated that the appeal to the House of Lords might be heard within three weeks.

Section 13(1) of the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974, as amended, provides: "An act done by a person in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute shall not be actionable in court on the ground only (a) that it induces another person to break a contract or interferes or induces any other person to interfere with its performance; or (b) that it consists in his threatening that a contract... will be broken or its performance interfered with, or that he will induce another person to break a contract or to interfere with its performance."

"Trade dispute" is defined by section 29(1) of the 1974 Act as amended by section 18(1) of the Employment Act 1982 as meaning "a dispute between workers and their employer which relates wholly or mainly to" one of seven specified matters including "termination... of employment".

Mr Robert Alexander, QC, Mr Patrick Elias and Mr T R Charlton for Mercury; Mr Christopher Carr, QC, and Miss Cherie Booth for the union.

The MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the appeal was important and urgent. It was the first occasion upon which the court had been called on to consider the changes made in the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act 1974 by the Employment Act 1982.

In such disputes, which gave rise to strong, indeed passionate feelings on each side, the courts had an independent role, akin to that of a referee. Parliament made the law and was solely responsible for what the law was.

The duty of the courts was simply to apply the law as they understood it. Mr Justice Mervyn Davies had approached his task upon that basis and the court would do the same.

For many years the Post Office had enjoyed a monopoly in the telecommunications systems within the United Kingdom. In 1981 Parliament passed the Telecommunications Act which established BT, transferred the telecommunications business of the Post Office to it and empowered the secretary of state to license rival telecommunications systems.

That met with strong disapproval from the union and many of its members, the vast majority of whom were employed by BT. It was probably also unwelcome to the management of BT.

On February 22, 1982, the secretary of state issued a licence authorizing Mercury to establish a telecommunications system within the United Kingdom on the terms of the licence. The process of licensing competitors of BT was known in the industry as "liberalization". In contrast, the process of altering the nationalized status of BT by converting it into a public limited company and issuing its shares to the public was known as "privatization".

The machinery for liberalization existed in the Telecommunications Act 1981. That for privatization was contained in the Telecommunications Bill now before Parliament.

The operation of the Mercury system required a degree of interconnection with the BT system. It also required connection with the "interface" of the international system, the United Kingdom interface being at present part of the BT system.

The union was opposed to liberalization in general and the grant of a licence to Mercury and the setting up of the Mercury telecommunications system in particular. It was also opposed to privatization. It had pursued its opposition by argument and by industrial action.

In March 1982 the union's national executive committee resolved to instruct its members not to connect Mercury to the BT system.

BT management by themselves made some interconnections. The union then instructed its members to "black" Mercury shareholders and BT services at Mercury's own premises.

The writ in the present proceedings was issued on October 5, 1983. What the judge and the court had to decide was what orders, if any, should be made pending the trial of the action. It appeared that, contrary to the usual situation, there would be a full trial of the action. Accordingly, it was no part of the court's function to reach any definitive decision upon the issues between the parties.

The court had to apply the principles of *American Cyanamid v Ethicon Ltd* (1975) AC 396 as modified to accommodate the special provisions of section 17(2) of the 1974 Act. The court was concerned with degrees of likelihood, not whether the defendants would undoubtedly succeed.

It was common ground that for the purpose of the proceedings the court could assume that there was a serious issue to be tried as to whether the defendants had committed the torts of inducing breach of contract and interference with business by unlawful means.

The only defence that was relevant at the present stage was that under section 13(1) of the 1974 Act as amended.

The essence of the defence under section 13(1) of the 1974 Act was whether the acts complained of had been done "in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute". The first step was to concentrate on whether the defendants were likely to establish that there was a "trade dispute".

The amendment of section 29(1) of the 1974 Act by section 18 of the Employment Act 1982 considerably narrowed the scope of "trade dispute". Disputes between workers and an employer did not qualify unless the employer was their employer.

It was no longer sufficient that the dispute should be "connected with" one of the specified matters. It now had to relate "wholly or mainly to" that matter.

Whether there was a trade dispute was a mixed question of fact and law, but primarily one of fact. The judge in his full and very careful judgment had set out most of the relevant evidence adduced before him. That evidence had now been supplemented.

The union's case had been that the cause of the dispute lay in the fact that BT wished to take a step which the union members regarded as putting their jobs at risk, the subject matter of the dispute was the risk to jobs.

Mercury commented that the terms of the licence restricted Mercury to a gross turnover not exceeding 3 per cent of the gross turnover of BT and that if job security was at the root of any dispute it was surprising that no one ever mentioned the existence of a formal job security agreement between BT and the union executed in September 1980.

That job security agreement had come to Mercury's attention nearly a week after the judgment of Mr Justice Mervyn Davies by the pure chance that they heard the chairman of BT refer to it in a radio interview. The general secretary of the union had deposited that the issues of liberalization and privatization had

not emerged when that agreement was negotiated; that it contemplated only technological change and that accordingly its relevance had not been appreciated.

He had no doubt that there was a strong and widespread belief among his members that the agreement would not protect their jobs if Mercury succeeded in creating off the most profitable parts of BT's business traffic.

For Mercury it was submitted that there was no dispute between BT and the union.

The importance of that submission lay in the fact that under the amended law only a dispute between BT and its employees could constitute a trade dispute and attract immunity for the industrial action.

His Lordship would accept that it might be possible to have a "satellite dispute" which did not constitute a dispute between the parties to the dispute but was part of a dispute between one of those parties and a third party, but he did not think that it was in the least likely that that would be held to be the case at the trial.

The likelihood, approaching certainty, was that it would be held that there was a dispute between BT and some or all of its employees who were members of the union.

Assuming that there was such a dispute, did it relate wholly or mainly to "termination... of employment" within section 29(1) of the 1974 Act?

His Lordship did not understand how the authorities mentioned by the judge enabled him to jump from a finding that the dispute was as to whether BT installations should be

made available to Mercury to a finding that it was a dispute which related wholly or mainly to termination of employment.

*Hadmor Productions v Hamilton* (1983) AC 191 and *Health Computing Ltd v Meek* (1981) ICR 24 did not assist in deciding to what any particular dispute wholly or mainly related. *N.W.L. Ltd v Woods* (1979) 1 WLR 1294 was decided under the old law where the test was "in connection with".

Thinking that the judge misdirected himself, the question was whether on the more extensive evidence, which was available, the dispute between the union and its members and BT was likely to be held to be a trade dispute.

The instructions given by Parliament as expressed by the words used in the statute had to be followed: see *Dunlop Slacks Ltd v Sirs* (1980) 1 WLR 142, 153.

The starting point must be the meaning of the phrase "wholly or mainly relating to" which directed attention to what the dispute was about, or if it was about more than one matter, what it was mainly about. It did not direct attention to the reason why the parties were in dispute about the matter.

In the context of an admittedly restrictive amendment to the statute, his Lordship inclined to the view that Parliament intended a relatively restrictive meaning to be given to the phrase, the words "wholly or mainly" themselves indicated and provided a degree of restriction.

His Lordship found it impossible to conclude on the evidence as present available that the risk to

jobs was a major factor in what the dispute was about.

If the dispute was wholly or mainly about jobs it was inconceivable that the union would not have approached BT asking for a guarantee of job security or a strengthening of the job security agreement.

On the other hand, there was massive evidence that the union was waging a campaign against the political decisions to liberalize the industry and to privatize BT.

His Lordship's conclusion on the evidence was that it was most unlikely that the union would be able to establish that there was at any material time a trade dispute between BT and its employees.

In order to make good the defence under section 13 of the 1974 Act it was necessary for the industrial action complained of to have been taken in contemplation or furtherance of the trade dispute. That question did not arise if there was no trade dispute.

For the reasons given his Lordship thought that it was highly unlikely that the section 13 defence would prevail when the action was taken in contemplation or furtherance of the trade dispute. That question did not arise if there was no trade dispute.

As to whether the court should substitute its own view on the discretion to grant interlocutory relief, see the speech of Lord Diplock in *Hadmor Productions Ltd v Hamilton* at p220. Having concluded that the judge misdirected himself and that the additional evidence produced had been highly relevant to the issues of

fact which he had to determine, it seemed that the court was bound to exercise its discretion afresh.

Mercury had shown that there was a serious question to be tried and that it had a real prospect of succeeding in its claim for a permanent injunction at the trial. If Mercury succeeded it would not be adequately compensated by damages whereas if the union succeeded it would be adequately compensated by an award under the cross-undertaking. The balance of convenience lay in protecting Mercury pending the trial of the action.

The appeal should be allowed.

LORD JUSTICE MAY, concurring, said that two issues arose on the defence. Was there at the material time a relevant trade dispute? Were the acts of the union of which Mercury complained done by the union in contemplation or furtherance of a trade dispute?

If one had asked any reasonable man in the street whether at the material time there was a "dispute" between BT and its employees who were refusing to carry out BT's instructions, his answer would almost certainly be in the affirmative.

In his Lordship's opinion the judge's approach to the question whether or not the dispute between BT and its employees referable to Mercury was a "trade dispute" within section 29(1) and thus whether the union was likely to succeed on the section 13 defence at the trial could not be supported. That required the court to exercise an original discretion.

His Lordship had no doubt that those who strenuously contended for a continuation of a monopoly in the postal and telecommunications fields honestly and fervently believed that it was in the best interests of those working in the industry.

But it did not follow that industrial action taken to further that campaign amounted to a dispute which was wholly or mainly about fears of redundancies if that monopoly was not maintained.

His Lordship thought that it was unlikely that the defendants would succeed at the trial of the action in establishing the section 13(1) defence.

As to the exercise of the discretion whether to grant interlocutory injunctions, the practical realities of industrial situations had to be considered: see *N.W.L. Ltd v Woods* at p1305. The appeal should be allowed and the interlocutory injunctions sought granted.

LORD JUSTICE DILLON, also concurring, said that in relation to the fresh evidence it was pertinent to bear in mind the comment of Lord Diplock in the *Hadmor* case (at p 224) that the greater likelihood of a section 13 defence succeeding, the greater the weight to be attached to it. The converse must also apply.

The main question for the trial was whether the union's members' actions in refusing interconnections were wholly or mainly due to fear of job losses or even if partly due to job loss fears, were mainly due to the political objection to the breaking of a monopoly.

It was a question on which the words "wholly or mainly" in the

statutory definition were of fundamental importance, but the judge did not seem to have addressed his mind to those words. The authorities which he mentioned were not concerned with the words "wholly or mainly" but with whether a dispute might relate to or be concerned with job losses even though no real threat of dismissal had been made.

In considering whether a dispute related wholly or mainly to any of the matters listed in section 29 it was necessary to consider not merely the occasion which caused the dispute to break out but also the reason why there was a dispute.

There was no doubt that the union had for many months opposed with fervour the Government's proposals for changes within the telecommunications industry. That was part of the wider dispute which the judge seemed to have dismissed as a matter of words only until BT in June 1973 ordered connection.

If the attitude of the union was relevant, so was the further evidence addressed to the court. The judge had not been told of the job security agreement.

On the material before the court, his Lordship would not regard the union's prospect of establishing that there was a trade dispute as overwhelming as in the *Hadmor* case. The union might succeed at the trial but if they did it would have been a close run thing. In the light of all the factors Mercury should be granted the interlocutory injunctions which they sought.

Solicitors: Bird & Bird; Lawford & Co.

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## Career catalysts

Ideas do not appear or survive in a vacuum. They depend absolutely on people. In "Presences", a new Times Higher Education Supplement series, a number of academics and authors describe the impact teachers, colleagues, friends have had on their thinking and careers. This week, Lord Ashby describes the personal pressures that steered him away from academic science and into administration. Later articles - by Stephen Heath on Raymond Williams, by the translator Michael Hamburger, by the exiled Russian biologist Zhores Medvedev, and others - look at the whole question of intellectual 'influence'.

also in this week's issue:  
- Toby Weaver on why Robins had to be rejected  
- Tim Champion on the 'new' Archaeology

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## SPECTRUM

## The plain man's guide to God

The Times Profile  
Dr John Habgood,  
Archbishop of York

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, though not enthroned until later this month, presides over the General Synod of the Church of England this week for the first time, giving that body its first chance to see how well he wears his new mantle. The Archbishop of Canterbury is away celebrating Martin Luther's 500th anniversary in Germany, so for some of the week the junior of the two primates is in sole charge.

Fortunately for him, the principal duty is just to be there as a court of appeal on technical points of procedure. On Tuesday he had the pleasure of announcing his position in the new pecking order. "York, Number Two". Like privates in the army, every synod member has to give name and number before he can speak and Dr Habgood likes to take part in debate, not just watch it happen.

It is a position that no doubt appeals to him, for the new archbishop has the most logical and sharpest of minds, proved once by means of a first class science degree at Cambridge, and proved again every time he speaks in public. He is a case of "once a scientist always a scientist", for in matters even of faith or church order Dr Habgood's invariable starting point is factual, and his method to assemble the facts in orderly order. From that his conclusions follow: he is therefore a difficult man to argue with. Other people's looser points can be impatiently swept aside.

It was this quality, sometimes mistaken for intellectual arrogance, which gave him a reputation for coldness when he first became Bishop of Durham from an obscure academic post in the Midlands. Even before this summer's announcement of his appointment to York, however, he had started to learn how to relax in public, and his appointment also seems to have helped. But there is a natural shyness to his manner still, and appearing on television does not come naturally to him.

His contribution to the Church of England will lie elsewhere: in his scientific background and the mental approach that gives him. It is typical of him that when he was preparing for a new book on the church in society (*Church and Nation in a Secular Age*, Dalton, Longman and Todd £5.95) it was not theology but sociology that he turned to, and in a characteristic Habgood phrase "a realistic appraisal of the facts" he summed up where, for him, all argument has to start.

The sociological approach is not one the Church of England is terribly keen on in general. It is as if its relationship to society required a certain degree of myth and mystery, and too much probing might loosen the cement. Habgood has no such inhibitions and while holding a high view of the church's significance for the nation, he has no time for ecclesiastical pretensions.

The Church of England's position as the national church sometimes gives rise to an attitude of smug spiritual superiority, which the new Archbishop

of York both admits and roundly deplores. One feels he means it for one feels he truly does not need it for himself.

This pragmatic and sociological approach to the church is both a benefit and a danger, and there is some reason to suspect that he is not sufficiently aware of the latter. The advantage is that the Church of England does badly need some assistance from the facts in rediscovering its role in society. It is futile for it to pursue policies based on the hope, for example, that spiritual revival is just round the next corner, if only church leaders would "get their acts together", if that expectation is sheer fantasy. There are Anglicans who feel the way; but Habgood will be no comfort to them.

The new prayer book  
still under attack

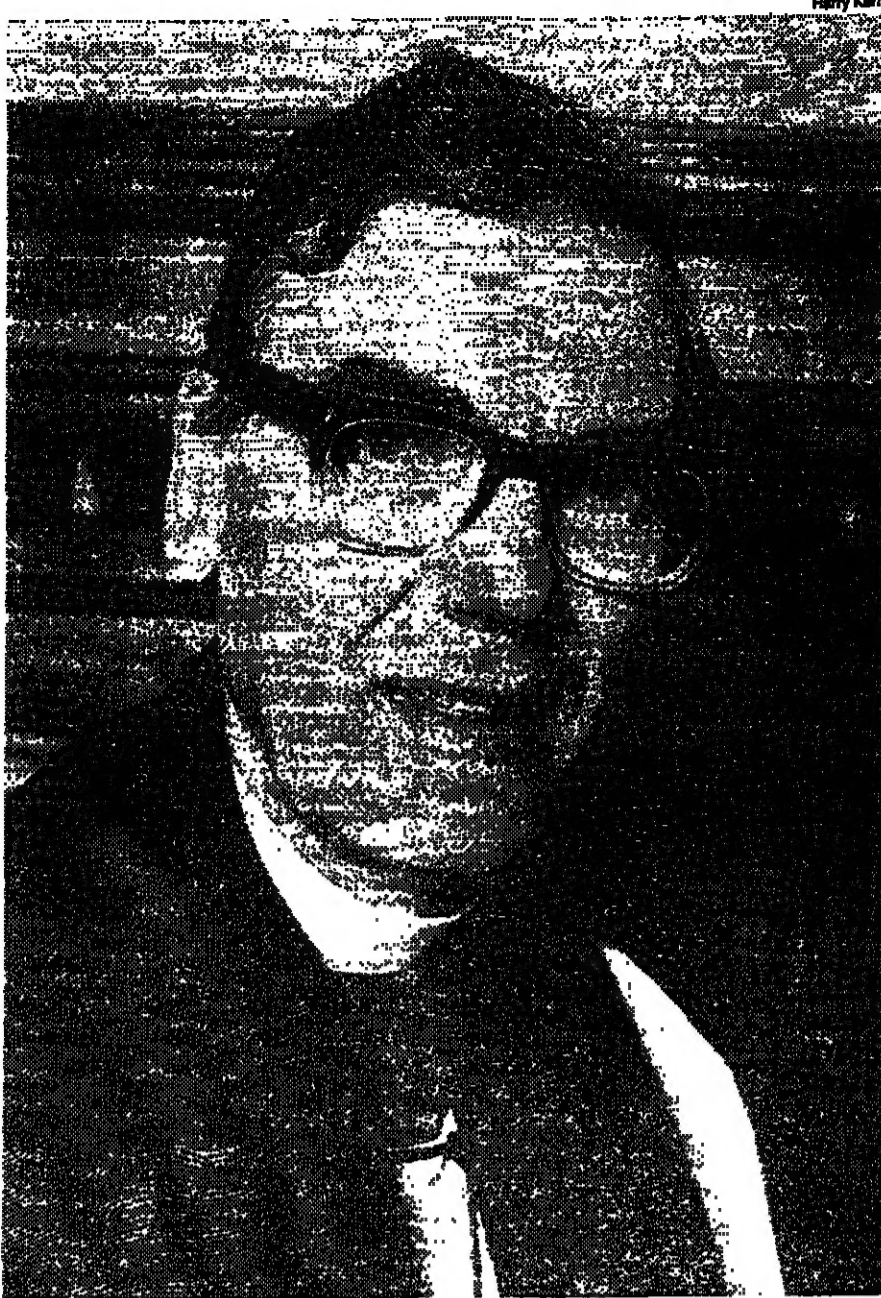
The facts - perhaps more obvious outside the church than within - are that church attendance is only one of many dimensions of spirituality and religion in contemporary secular and pluralistic society. A sensible church, wanting to justify its existence and strengthen its role, will acknowledge this. It will acknowledge it more with good Dr Habgood's assistance.

The danger is that some aspects of the church's life may not survive too much rational definition. Some sense of myth and mystery, in the hard light of day apparently unnecessary, may be important constituents of national religiosity.

Dr Habgood was closely involved in simplifying Anglican worship which resulted in the Alternative Service Book; and in the Covenant for Unity with the Free Churches, which ran aground when a substantial minority in the Church of England felt threatened. In neither case was the irrational element in human nature, which seems close to the religious, given due weight. The new prayer book is still under vigorous attack; and the failure of the unity scheme has put a question mark over the whole ecumenical enterprise. He bears some responsibility for these two, less than ideal, outcomes: it is quite likely that being so rational a person himself, he failed to give due weight to the sentiments and prejudices of others less rational.

Dr Habgood is still only 56, with at least 10 years of leadership to give to the church, and he is still manifestly thinking hard, still analysing, speculating and learning. He may yet have another gift to bring to Anglicanism, in addition to the capacity to make it face a sociological fact. The church badly needs his scientific mind to lead it towards a better adjustment to science itself; and to lead secular opinions to a better understanding of the relationship between science and religion.

Since science became the dominant ethos of the age, the criterion by which all claims to truth are judged, popular



JOHN STAPYLTON HABGOOD  
born June 23 1927 educated Eton, King's Cambridge, Cuddesdon College, Oxford  
1950-53 Demonstrator in Pharmacology, Cambridge  
1952-55 Fellow of King's College, Cambridge  
1954-56 Curate of St Mary Abbots, Kensington  
1956-62 Vice Principal Westcott House, Cambridge  
1962-67 Rector of St John's Church, Jedburgh  
1967-73 Principal Queen's College, Birmingham  
1975-83 Bishop of Durham  
1983- Archbishop of York

sentiment has been that science somehow disproves of religion. Many of the leading minds in the church, no matter how educated in church history, Hebrew or classics, are at a loss when faced with this eclipse of faith. Now the Church of England has a scientist at the very top, it may begin to find its feet in this crucial area. The General Synod has never yet debated science and religion, but it now has the ideal man to preside over a debate.

Dr Habgood is one of several leading churchmen in the Church of England whose entry into personal religious experience was through the Evangelical door.

At university he was attracted by the intense commitment of students he knew with the Christian Union type of piety, having previously thought himself an atheist. He would now, however, more properly be classified as a "middle Anglican", one equally balanced between High and Low, with

"liberal" sympathies, and some "catholic" overtones.

It enables him to sympathize with all sections of opinion, but it does not make for a very clear personal image. There is even the characteristic Anglican "wooliness" in Dr Habgood at all the appropriate places, such as a refusal to say what the Church of England really stands for except in terms so general as to be platitudinous. He is a man of many and diverse ecclesiastical interests, a follower of no church party (though on the "high" side in background), yet he stands out from his fellow bishops - about whom there is a certain "sameness" - perhaps because that is what Eton taught him to do. It is a nice coincidence that both he and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, are married to professional pianists, though it is said they have never played together. At least if Dr Runcie retires in time to give Dr Habgood an innings at

Canterbury (the age difference is six years in the latter's favour) the Lambeth Palace pianos will be in-tune.

In touch with movements  
in world theology

As Bishop of Durham ("Durham, Number Four") Dr Habgood was beginning to assume the role of an odd-job man. He represents the Church of England on both the British Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches, he took charge of the new prayer book revision process, he served on the unity covenant supervising body, and he chaired an international commission which looked at the problems of nuclear energy and nuclear war.

Earlier this year he went with a party of British churchmen to the Vatican, and seems particularly to have enjoyed a long talk with Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, head of the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (formerly the Holy Office).

He said afterwards he thought he saw something in the Roman Catholic mentality with which an Anglican did not feel at home. Certainly the new Archbishop of York is not an enthusiast for dogma, and has said that faith is more present in the interpretation of experience than in any written formulae. But this is not narrow-mindedness on his part; it seems he is well in touch with movements in world theology, and asked recently to name the most influential living theologian, named the German Jesuit Karl Rahner. Most churchmen asked such a question would say who had influenced them most: typically, with Dr Habgood, it was a question requiring an objective answer, regardless of his personal opinion of Rahner's work. Like a true scientist, but unlike many churchmen, he distinguishes between what is the case and what he might wish it to be.

Although a man holding such an attitude is bound to be criticized sooner or later, both for lacking a sense of vision and for doctrinal weakness, there is actually a powerful case for believing that church teaching is far more dependent on sociology than theology, though few theologians would admit such dependence. As he points out in his latest book, the factors affecting church attendances seem to have far more to do with changing social conditions than the state of health and current politics pursued by the churches.

He also points out the complex relationship between contemporary social mores and the morality taught by the church, an observation which is realistic but damaging to the illusions of many churchmen. The church must have its moral standards, he argues, but never forget that they can never be the last word. And for him this is just as true of doctrine. It is not surprising that one observer once described hearing a speech by Dr Habgood as like taking a cold bath, of that another said he had "a mind like a razor".

The latter remark was qualified, however, with "... and a heart of gold." There is an air of good humour about Dr Habgood and a lack of pomposity, that indicates a rounded personality which might otherwise be intimidating.

Clifford Longley  
Religious Affairs Correspondent

moreover...  
Miles Kingston

Night at  
the opera

"I am relatively new to London and recently attended the opera in Covent Garden for the first time. I was appalled and repelled by the unfriendliness of the audience, masquerading, apparently, as reverence for art. Any time someone moved an arm or shifted discreetly in one of the uncomfortable seats he was treated to an outpouring of mutters, expletives and glares."

So writes a reader called Pola Henrid to the *Standard* this week. She is a professional musician, the letter goes on to say, and thought that music was meant to be fun, and stimulation of the heart and intellect. What room is there for either among the "moaning, tut-tutting and self-congratulation"?

Oh dear. It's always sad to witness a person discovering for the first time that going to the opera is not about music; it's about going to the opera. Opera-goers have many reasons for their attendance, but musical enjoyment is not high on the list. One might as well go to a rugby match to enjoy imagination, invention and improvisation, or go to Bradford to enjoy a day by the sea. But in case any readers are thinking seriously about taking up opera-going, I would like to provide a check-list of possible valid motives. If you can tick three or more boxes, then opera is for you. If you can tick all boxes, then a box at the opera is for you.

□ Muttering and moaning, or intellectual superiority. There's a wonderful feeling involved in knowing more about an opera than the person next to you. If your neighbour says *sotto voce*, "Which character has just come in and why is he carrying a knife?", start moaning. Frank Muir once said he went to the National Film Theatre to see a Marx Brothers film and laughed out loud after three minutes. A man behind said, "Sssh!" That man should have been at Covent Garden.

□ Picnicking. Many people enjoy opera because it gives them the chance to pack up little hampers, or take along bottles of something exquisite. (Wine buffs are quite often opera-lovers.) For them, Glyndebourne is the greatest place on earth - in a picnic spot.

□ A quasi-religious experience. Lots of people who have lost their faith tend to find comfort in opera. If they have lost their faith badly, they usually go for Wagner.

□ Dressing up. This is self-explanatory. Seeing and being seen. So is this.

□ Spotting team changes. Just as football fans are interested in seeing if McFlurry will slot in United's midfield after McSherry has been sold to City, so many opera fans will go along just to see how Soudastream tackles the role of Kristina to which Krasnikova brought such conviction, even if she wasn't quite reliable after F sharp.

□ Enjoying staring through tiny binoculars. This isn't perhaps worth a whole box to itself, so you should also include enjoying queuing at bars, enjoying queuing at cloakrooms and enjoying staring at audiences.

Musical enjoyment can certainly not be ruled out, though I am not sure it is worth its own box. I have always been struck by the fact that of the opera-goers I know, only one actually plays an instrument. The others are all on hearsay terms with music. I wouldn't go so far as to say that opera is music for people who do not like music, but I am disposed to agree with H. L. Mencken: "All the first-rate musicians who have triumphed in the opera-house have been skillful mountebanks as well." Need only cite Richard Wagner and Richard Strauss. . . . An opera may have plenty of good music in it and fail, but if it has a good enough show it will succeed.

"Greater men than Wagner," he goes on, warning to his subject, "lacking his touch of the quack, have failed where he succeeded - Beethoven, Schubert, Brahms, Bach, Handel, Haydn. Not one of them produced a genuinely successful opera; most of them didn't even try. Imagine Brahms writing for the diamond horseshoe Or Bach or Haydn! Beethoven attempted it, but made a mess of it. *Fidelio* survives today chiefly as a set of concert overtures. Schubert wrote more actual music every morning between 10 o'clock and lunch-time than the average opera composer produces in 250 years, and yet he always came a cropper in the opera-house."

Any letters received from furious opera-lovers will gladly be forwarded to Mr Mencken.

CONCISE CROSSWORD  
(No 198)

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## Final part in our series on the television of tomorrow

The brave new world  
of media mediocrity

Is the future of television one of bountiful excellence or will it be barren? Are we witnessing the release of the magic energy and creativity of private capital or the beginning of a cultural strip-mining which will leave the land bare? Will cable link us to a future of boundless wealth or a grubby little development of importance to no man?

No one knows, not the accountants, not the businessmen, not the shareholders, not the pundits. Yet one can hear the crescendo of a campaign to persuade us that it will work, that we really will want this future of cable, satellite and video. If you don't believe it, it won't happen: such is the nature of the market.

Its nature is one of boundless movement with no real direction. Listening to the entrepreneurs of the media future, I am reminded of Woody Allen: "I've got an idea. Now I'm looking for some cash to turn it into a concept." As for the government-inspired public debate, I am reminded of the American Supreme Court Justice, Oliver Wendell Holmes, who when asked for his train ticket, began to fumble, looking increasingly perplexed. Recognizing the famed Justice, the inspector said: "That's OK sir, you can pay for the ticket later."

Rounding on him, Holmes observed: "Young man, I am not looking for my ticket to demonstrate that I have paid. I need it to find out where I am going." Despite all the market research and various reports into the new media, we do not really know where we are going.

Underlying the many government statements is a conviction that the new media can co-exist with the existing media like neighbours living in detached houses. But cable, satellite and video cannot become more widespread without seriously eating into the share of the audience held by the BBC and ITV, thereby destabilizing the system.

The Government may have embarked on its new technology policies with the best of intentions, but it has still not adequately considered what the cultural implications of those policies will be. The only social research it has shown any interest in funding has been that which will allow it to sell the idea of the new technologies to a so far reluctant population.

The idea that there is need for little or no regulation of the new media rests upon the assumption that the BBC and ITV can be sheltered from potentially hostile forces. That is nonsense. It would have been more honest of the Government to say that in the long term there was no longer a place for public service broadcasting, for a system regulated to some social as opposed to commercial purpose.

There is no such thing as deregulation. There is regulation by organizations with a public purpose and those with a private purpose. We have as one part of our television system ITV companies which possess both but which, because they have been governed by a public authority, have produced programmes - dramas, documentaries, current affairs -

which they otherwise would not have.

My own view is that the social benefits of the moguls of the BBC and ITV, working within the framework of the public service idea, will always be greater than those which follow from the narrow materialism of accountants with responsibility only to shareholders.

It is not that anyone is against TV producers making money - indeed that is necessary if they are to address their public function. The price of *Weekend World* is *Game for a Laugh*. The same logic should apply to the new media: the price of premium film channels should be that they fund and encourage productions made in Britain reflecting British concerns.

There is an ambivalence in government thinking on the need to censor the output of cable stations. The White Paper on cable published in April implies that there will be fairly rigid censorship in terms of "standards of taste and decency", yet it goes on to say that it may be possible for cable stations to show the type of material which would not be available on a BBC or IBA channel. However, "so-called 'adult channels' have no place on the sort of cable systems which the Government wishes to see develop".

Films with a high level of explicit sex will clearly be dotted around on every film channel, not into one or two, because cable television will have a voracious appetite and will use up films by the score, including a substantial proportion of X-certified films. Widening consumer choice inevitably means the

Government encouraging material which they dislike.

By the beginning of the next decade, whichever government is in power, there will be an urgent need to examine broadcasting in the light of new technologies.

Much will depend upon the role which the new cable authority takes for itself, which will include responsibility for direct broadcast satellites. If the authority decides to force cable operators to invest money in quality domestic productions, then we may be able to look to the future with a certain optimism.

If however the authority, as this Government intends, does not push and cajole operators, then the future is bleak. We may have a wondrous technology of optical fibre cable, satellite and large high-definition screens, but it will deliver programmes bled white of ideas, or character, or range. This Government, in its experiments in the new media, will have prepared the ground for a cultural and moral dust bowl.

Michael Tracey  
The author is head of the independent Broadcasting Research Unit at the British Film Institute.

TRANSAMERICA  
AIRLINES

Our article of October 14 about diamond smuggling in Angola stated that Transamerica Airlines, a subsidiary of Transamerica Corporation, had links with the CIA. Transamerica asks us to point out, and we accept, that it is not, and has never been, linked with the CIA.



WE ALL REMEMBER 23 MAY 1982

## NONE OF US SHOULD FORGET 13 NOV. 1983

The sinking of HMS Antelope was just one of the incidents which led to loss of life in the Falklands Campaign.

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THE POPPY APPEAL

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# BOOKS

## Woodrow Wyatt reviews Lord Bullock's biography of Bevin Colossus of the Cold War

Ernest Bevin

Foreign Secretary, 1945-1951

By Alan Bullock

(Heinemann, £30)

After reading Lord Bullock's splendidly sculptured massive survey, it is hard not to believe that Ernest Bevin was Britain's greatest Foreign Secretary. Palmerston could throw his weight about when we were the leading naval power. From 1813 Castlereagh organised the coalition against Napoleon and created the conditions of the lasting peace which followed the Napoleonic Wars. But as Bevin wryly observed in June 1947:

When the war ended, Britain held about 30 per cent of the world's wealth. The U.S. today holds about 50 per cent. Britain for eighteen years after Waterloo practically gave away her exports, but this resulted in stability and one hundred years of peace.

Bevin had nothing to give, not so much as a ton of coal. He often lamented, at Potsdam he felt Britain was a good third to Russia and America but the ground was slipping fast. In two World Wars longer than any other power, our reserves exhausted, our industries to be rebuilt, Bevin could see that our empire and world commitments could not be maintained, that we were bound to take a lesser place. But if it happened too quickly the shock to the national consciousness would be numbing and destructive. Time was needed to adjust if there was to be prosperity and stability in a lower status. He struggled successfully to delay the decline to make it bearable and because he believed that Britain must remain influential long enough to ensure the recovery and defence of Western Europe, both essential to Britain.

It had to be done by diplomacy, and though Bevin was no one's conventional idea of a diplomat, he was a superb one. As a trade union leader he knew how to negotiate. As Minister of Labour in the War through tact and patience, rather than by direction, he got more out of the nation's manpower than anyone else could have. He understood men, his imagination caught and generated ideas, and, as Lord Bullock shows, again and again, he had an instinctive grasp of history and its meaning for the purposes of the future. He could judge what was important and what was not, which is more unusual than is generally supposed.

Bevin's three supreme achievements were the conversion of the Marshall offer to the Marshall Plan, the Berlin airlift, and NATO. General Marshall, US Secretary of State, tossed off a vague suggestion in June 1947 at Harvard that if Europe would present a coherent programme of economic recovery the USA would provide the finance. As usual, sleepy Foreign Office officials missed the significance of an important event and the Embassy in



Bevin on his return from Moscow, April 1947

Washington didn't bother to send, as they could have, an advance copy of the speech to London. Bevin first heard of it on his bedside wireless in a BBC American commentary broadcast on the 5th June. He went into action at once telling Washington that there would be a European response and proposing joint action to the French.

Marshall wanted Russia and Eastern Europe included and Britain as a recipient, not a distributor of aid, to play a secondary role. Bevin saw that if Russia were involved the Marshall offer would be negated and that if Britain were not a prime partner in how the aid was allocated Britain's standing would fall with a bump. Lord Bullock describes with skill and clarity how Bevin brilliantly overcame the difficulties and how the Marshall Plan really became the Bevin Plan with the Americans supplying the money. It was the foundation of Western Europe's prosperity in the fifties and sixties and gave Britain a long period of full employment into the fifties and sixties.

In March 1948 the Russians began the attempt to force the Western Allies out of

Berlin by progressively cutting off supplies. By June 24 the blockading of the Western sectors was almost complete. Air Commodore Waite of the RAF suggested an air lift. Bevin enthusiastically persuaded the hesitant USA to back it and arranged for US strategic bombers to be stationed in Britain. West Berlin after a long and arduous air effort was saved.

From the Berlin airlift to Nato was a natural progression necessary to protect Western Europe but impossible without US troops in Europe. Lord Bullock comments "although it was driven through the final negotiations by Acheson's skill and determination, it was Bevin who right through 1948 had argued persistently against American doubts and French scepticism, in season and out, that such a pact was both possible and necessary as the only way to recreate European confidence". That is true.

Bevin's major failure is widely held to be Palestine, even usually fair-minded Jews branding him as anti-semitic. Lord Bullock demonstrates the unfairness of the charge. Bevin was hampered by commitments made by predecessors, by the USA's internal politics, by the physical limitations on British military power, by his far-seeing awareness that the Arabs would count for more than the pro-Zionists anticipated and could not be safely brushed aside. He did not want the impossible mandate and he wanted US cooperation so much that he was the only one in the Cabinet's Defence Committee in April 1946 in favour of accepting the Anglo-American commission's report including the admission of 100,000 further Jews into Palestine. With a weak hand he did what he could and Israel arose without a total break with the Arabs.

Bevin made sure of Aitchison's backing at every move. Aitche, who realized what an unambitious loyal giant he was, gladly gave it. Bevin did not understand the Commons much, gets up when they judge me and I sit down when they pull my coat. Analysed, the words in his speeches did not make sense but their meaning was unmistakable. I thought this great impressive hunk of body and brainpower impervious to brickbats. I was ashamed to read how personally hurt he was when some of us put down a juvenile amendment to the King's Speech in November 1946 foolishly criticizing him, and I see why he once said to me wistfully "You young fellows don't understand what I am trying to do and how difficult it is".

The difficulties were multiplied by his having to deal with them all the time in an acute ill health which finally killed him in April 1951. Lord Bullock's account of Bevin as Foreign Secretary will be an enduring memorial. He was a colossus who made bricks without straw and, to paraphrase Pitt, saved Europe by his exertions.

## William Rees-Mogg reviews Skidelsky's biography of Keynes Confessions of a justified monetarist

John Maynard Keynes

Vol. 1: Hopes Betrayed, 1883-1920

By Robert Skidelsky

(Macmillan, £14.95)

Some of my friends are ex-Marxists, and they retain, despite their repudiation of the doctrine, the imprint of his mind. I am an ex-Keynesian, and I feel that I similarly experience, though less severely, the deformation of the imprint of the gentler master. Nevertheless, like the ex-Marxist, I have had to repudiate my hero; where Robert Skidelsky writes "it is hard to think of any economist who has achieved so much practical good", I find myself wondering if there is any economist since Marx who has achieved so much practical harm.

Skidelsky writes: "The history of the Keynesian revolution is largely a story of Keynes's escape from the quantity theory of money." This was indeed Keynes's one important contribution to economic theory; the rest of his work is in the main a brilliant adjustment of theories already formulated to the circumstances of the moment. Unfortunately the quantity theory of money is valid, though it is often stated in an unsatisfactory form and is both criticized and defended in an over simple way.

The history of the Keynesian revolution is therefore essentially a history of error. Even Keynes's self-liberation from the quantity theory of money was not new; John Law freed himself, and France, from the quantity theory of money in the early eighteenth century; the consequent inflation rapidly ruined France. Keynes freed himself, and the world, from the quantity theory of money in the 1930s. The consequent inflation, with the gradual force of a larger revolution, has gone a long way to ruining the world.

Skidelsky's book is clearly destined to be the modern life of Keynes, replacing the earlier life by Roy Harrod as a personal biography, though Harrod will always be read for his economic understanding, superior to that of Skidelsky, and his personal

closeness to Keynes's economic thought. What Skidelsky shows, with great skill and thoroughness, is the psychological and philosophical development which formed Keynes's mind.

Maynard Keynes, born into the Cambridge academic set, a brilliant scholar at Eton, again a brilliant scholar at King's, lived all his formative years as the member of a narrow but very gifted intellectual elite. This narrow elitism was reinforced by his membership of the Apostles, a concealed secret intellectual club at Cambridge by his homosexuality which in those days also had to be secret, and by his friendship in the Bloomsbury group.

It is difficult to imagine a narrower, a more intellectual, or a more arrogant environment. Skidelsky brings out very clearly the distancing of the Apostles from ordinary people - Maynard Keynes wrote to Lytton Strachey: "is it monomania - this colossal moral superiority that we feel? I get the feeling that most of the rest never see anything at all - too stupid or too wicked." This immature sense of superiority applied to women, Jews, Americans, Frenchmen, the aristocracy and the lower classes in a particular way, and to everyone outside the narrow circle in a general way. Apostles held that they belonged to the "real", and everyone else only to the "phenomenal" world.

His elitism led Keynes as an economist to believe in the discretion of elites, of Platonic guardians of the public interest. The philosophical doctrines of G.E. Moore, which dominated Keynes before the first world war, led his disciples to a rejection of all rules, and a search for "good" states of mind as the criterion of conduct. "We entirely repudiated a personal liability on us to obey general rules", Keynes wrote in 1938 looking back at his earlier days. Undoubtedly his homosexuality, recounted in detail by Skidelsky, reinforced both the elitism and the antinomian philosophy, the homosexuality was largely, though not entirely, confined to members of the elite; it was held to be justified by loving states of mind; it was accompanied by a contempt for the intellects at



Gentle master of the Keynesian revolution

least of women; it repudiated a personal liability to obey general rules. But it was the elitism and the rejection of rules which mattered, though the homosexuality reinforced them.

Before Keynes a main objective of the English economists had been to establish general rules which would guide practical statesmen as safely as possible through the bazzards and temptations of the day to day. It was Keynes who held the view that "in the long run we are all dead", a maxim framed to excuse the abandonment of rules, destructive of sound policy for the same reason as Harold Wilson's equally vicious half truth "a week in politics is a long time". In particular Keynes attacked the gold standard which provided an automatic control of monetary inflation, and failed to replace it with any alternative rule of monetary regulation (though Bretton Woods was less than perfect in its Keynesian logic). Skidelsky is an admirer of Keynes, but what he shows is that Keynes's economic theories reflected his early acquired philosophical beliefs, and that those beliefs were alarmingly immature and inadequate. All wisdom about human affairs depends on humility, sympathy, and the search for general rules. Cambridge taught Keynes arrogance, superiority to others, and the repudiation of general rules. The repudiation of general rules (as is shown by the comparable influence of Freud) falls in with the wishes of the twentieth century. But how sad it is that a man by nature so likeable and so brilliant should have been so badly educated, and should have passed the errors of his education on to the whole world.

### Fiction

## The alchemy of the novelist at work

Where are you dying tonight?

By Michel Deon

(Hamish Hamilton, £9.95)

The Lost Flying Boat

By Alan Sillitoe

(Granada, £8.95)

A young Balkan peasant appears inexplicably one day in a class of younger boys at a reputable Parisian lycée. For months he sits in affable silence, apparently without a word of French, until his friendship with André Garrett and association with the boy's rich and benign family reveal a young man of rare intellect, who is well on the way to mastering his adopted language.

Both men make excellent progress and are set up in a publishing business by Garrett père; meanwhile the erstwhile peasant becomes the lover of André's maternal aunt, some 13 years his senior, whom he eventually marries. Under the name Stanislas Beren he becomes an acclaimed and accomplished novelist and the

publishing house achieves modest fortune and general esteem. *Where are you dying tonight?* is the reconstruction by André Garrett's son of Beren's life and work. It is a clever, wistful, beautifully oblique novel in which Beren's work and the critical response it evokes are described in some detail, allowing Michel Deon the opportunity of entertaining jibes at prominent French literary personages, as well as of illuminating commentary on the craft and tribulations of a novelist. Descriptions of Beren's early work - in part an elegy for a lost Europe before the war - are delightful enough; but the passages which relate to his novel "Where are you dining tonight?" are enchanting and brilliant.

The subtle relationship of the two different titles unfolds in the course of the rest of the story. It is a wry, often very funny, study of an artist "never happy outside his own skin" performing the alchemy which converts his experience (especially with different women) into fiction. Does this involve a violation of souls? Is the figure who emerges something of a monster? By the quietly ironic end of the book, it

will be for each individual reader to judge.

Alan Sillitoe's *The Lost Flying Boat* is an admirable adventure story, so that too much revelation of the plot would be an annoyance. An unsettled ex-RAF wireless operator accidentally teams up with a former pilot who has re-assembled his wartime aircrew (minus the radio operator) for an unspecified, possibly illegal, mission in the antarctic. The novel recounts what happened. As long as the tail-wind of adventure helps the story along, the flight is smooth and assured, but too often side-currents of metaphysical day-dreaming buffet it off course into varying densities of cloud. The characters, well drawn and never reverting to airforce type, present a convincing "airborne assembly of walking wounded" and the final pages, with perhaps some suggestion of parable, there is a mildly disparaging reference to RAF Bigglesworth, in spite of the fact that the adventurous aspect of the book owes something to that more humble establishment.

Oxherding Tale by Charles Johnson (Blond & Briggs, £8.95) is a powerful novel with vivid,

pulsating characters which might have been much more moving than it already is were it not for the author's philosophic posturing. A slave owner and his butler get drunk together and arrange to swap bedfellows. The black servant is enthusiastically received by the white mistress. In the morning, there are immense ructions. The slave is banished to a hard life in the fields. When his child is born, the mother who has become a virtual recluse rejects him: so that he is brought up in the shack of his father, though tutored by an extraordinary polymath versed in the ways of the orient as well as the systems of the west.

This allows Charles Johnson to indulge himself in all manner of outlandish metaphysical games, philosophical conundrums, paroxysms of word, event, and idea; and a disagreeable vein of facetious humour which underlies much of the tale. The reader is nudged knowingly and treated to interpolations which the publisher seems inclined to overstate drastically. The purpose of the book appears to be to examine and relate different types of slavery (not least that of the characters in a novel at the hands of their author), within the account of a sincere man finding his own true nature in adversity. Mr. Johnson had been less inclined to show off and allowed his first-rate invention to look after itself, it would have been a formidable achievement. Even as it stands, much of it is outstandingly good.

The Corsican by William Heffernan (Granada, £8.95) is a would-be blockbuster covering several generations of human stupidity, savagery, viciousness and greed perpetrated in the name of some notional and eminently dispensable honour, set in Corsica, wartime France and South-East Asia. Unpleasant violence and sadism described in detail are made worse by bursts of false moral reflection, heavy homely sagacity and cloying sentimentality. The writing is flat, repetitious and quite without distinction; the impact of the novel repulsive. A disgrace to fiction.

Stuart Evans

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### Crime

## Exotic and erotic.

Flamingo

By John Gardner

(Hodder & Stoughton, £8.95)

Ikon

By Graham Masterton

(W. H. Allen, £8.95)

There is a sub-order of the thriller, itself a branch only of crime fiction, not hitherto, I believe, clearly identified, which is perhaps best labelled "the farrago". It is marked by the variety of elements hodge-podged into it, the exotic and the erotic, the wildly improbable and the quasi-probable. It has, in consequence, length; it thrives on exaggeration; it needs, above all, pace. Two good examples swim under the microscope today.

Gardner's *Flamingo* is set in Shanghai in the 1930s, tells of the adventures at gunpoint and amid bedsteads of Harry Byrd, American with British roots (see in *Flamingo* the word "plastered with facts", an order of Fried and Braised Carp, garnished with onions and ginger (the menu stated, correctly, that a famous Soochow chef first served this dish to the Emperor Ch'ien-lung...)). Note that punctuation in the emperor's name. The book also pulses with superlatives: "wild conjunctions" of mating, liquor in "giant tumblers", the city "the hottest piece of real estate in the Orient" - all those within ten pages.

Masterton's *Ikon* is not far behind. Here we set out from the Arizona Biltmore Hotel, "designed in the mid-1920s by Frank Lloyd Wright, outrageously modern, a Jazz-Age resort for America's rich and notorious" and in no time we meet, yes, Marilyn Monroe, who, we learn, was not found dead in 1962 - but she is, by garrotting, in just a few pages more. Before all is done we have foiled a plot to take over the good old USA. Again, sex is squirted out like an ink-fish's fluid so as to hide some of the blatant unlikely-nesses ("her nipples were as stiff and sweet and wrinkled as California dried plums" - Oh dear) and facts from life are furiously stuck on like the little tiles of a space vehicle's heat-shield to protect the fragile fiction within. And here, too, we go at inter-stellar speed.

Dead Eye, by Jonathan Ross (Constable, £6.50). Another investigation for Superintendent Rogers in his provincial city, another mystery solved, another in-his-shoes look at coppering for lucky us. First-class again.

The Riddle of the Third Mile, by Colin Dexter (Macmillan, £7.50). Whose body in Oxford? Told with admirably teasing technique, enjoyable as the

detective story ought to be. Cruciverbalists forward!

Monsieur Pamplemousse, by Michael Bond (Hodder & Stoughton, £7.95). "Paddington" Bond turns to crime with gastronomic French sleuth plus gastronomic dog. It's much like the children's bestsellers: frolicsome but grabbing too easy laughs.

Something Wicked, by Elizabeth Ferrars (Collins, £6.75). A village mystery, standard you might think. But it's memorably set in a freezing winter (Absit omen!) and you feel the very cold penetrating.

H. R. F. Keating

## In her own right

Clara Schumann

By Joan Chissell

(Hamish Hamilton, £15)

The reasons for the fascination of Clara Schumann as a musical figure are manifold but are perhaps misunderstood. It is easy to regard her simply as a wife and a mother of eight, who chanced to touch the lives of the great musicians of the day, particularly Schumann and Brahms, and who wrote a piano concerto in A minor which sounds like her future husband on an off day. But, as Joan Chissell is at pains to point out in her admirably detailed biography, she had an active life of her own and was strong-willed enough to pursue it through thick and thin.

Miss Chissell tells succinctly the appalling tale of Clara's feud

with her father over her marriage to Schumann and Wierck's attempts to blacken Schumann's character, and conjures with clarity and sympathy her reactions to Schumann's encroaching madness. She relates comprehensively the story of Clara's full life after Schumann's death: the picking up of her concert career, the editing on behalf of her husband, her teaching, her relationship with Brahms and the correspondence and fruitful criticism that passed between them. She also discusses, valuably, Clara's own music. Ultimately we have a picture of a formidable woman in her own right. She was not, after all, what the Russians once called merely "Mme Schumann, wife of Robert".

Geoffrey Norris

Lord Denning's *The Closing Chapter* completes the series of four highly successful books setting out the way in which he has sought to develop English law in his long and often controversial career. The book gives a fascinating account of some of the leading contentious legal issues of the day including a journey along the bumpy course of trade union legislation. Here now is the sequel to Lord Denning's autobiography, telling with touching candour of his decision to retire from the office of Master of the Rolls.

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WATERLAND



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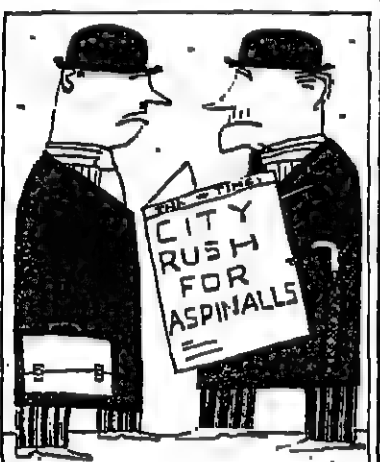
## THE TIMES DIARY

### Keeping tabs on the BUF

Nicholas Mosley knew that Mussolini helped to keep his father's British Union of Fascists in funds before this fact was disclosed by the Home Office papers declassified this week. While researching his recently published book about his father, *My Father the Pale*, Mosley was offered certain documents by the rigidly right-wing historian David Irving. While the Home Office files mainly contain reports from "an absolutely reliable source" that the BUF was getting a lot of *lira*, Irving produced actual bills and receipts. He obtained these from the Italian Public Records Office, where they had been filed somewhat distractedly. Mosley was not altogether happy at learning about the Italian connection from this particular source, especially since Irving rather rubbed it in by telling him that his conversion to the right came after listening to Sir Oswald speak in Notting Hill in the 1930s.

Debutants have slipped up with their forthcoming *Texas Peasage*, a venture into the murky waters of American "aristocracy". A picture caption describing Stanley Marzani presenting a cowboy hat to Earl Mountbatten "as his Countess looks on" does not inspire confidence. The picture shows not Edwina, who died in 1960, but Pamela, Mountbatten's daughter.

BARRY FANTONI



"I hear poor old Anstruther got very badly mauled"

### By the book

Summerhillians are an honest lot. A few weeks ago, publisher Andre Deutsch sent, mistakenly, a copy of *All the Best, Nellie* (a collection of A. S. Neill's letters to 230 Old Summerhillians, instead of the promotional literature about the book which Deutsch had intended to send. A letter followed asking for the return of the book or payment for it, at a pre-publication price. About half of those contacted have already returned the book or, better still, paid the asked for £7.95. The "special pre-publication price" included postage and packing, the Deutsch letter added with retroactive helpfulness.

### Seat of power

Some uneasy wrangling is evident among senior Social Democrats. They have been thinking about where they should sit in the European Parliament. No SDP persons have yet been elected to it, but the very possibility raises a painful dilemma. They could not sit in the block dominated by the very conservative Christian Democrats; they don't want to sit with the fairly conservative Liberals and the Socialist group will not have them because it already contains the Labour MEPs. A recent SDP conclave decided to put off the painful decision until some hapless ambassador - probably ex-MP John Roper - has been sent to Europe to try to make some friends next to whom he can sit.

● If the Royal Opera House is looking for belt-tightening tips, following charges of extravagance by a government efficiency unit, it could start with the egg sandwiches. The moment you buy one of these (plushly priced at 80p) it is instantly put into clingfilm wrapping which you then have to remove. Very wasteful as well as frustrating for customers with short fingernails.

### The simple life

Jonathan Porritt, "external relations chairman" of the Ecology Party, confessed during a lecture on "Avoiding the Apocalypse: the Green Perspective" at the Royal Institute of British Architects that the Ecology Party manifesto means when it calls for "the control of technology" - and I wrote it!

### VAD revisited

For the first time ever, women from the Royal Naval Voluntary Aid Detachment will be officially present at the Cenotaph service on Sunday. The VADs, trained by the Red Cross and the St John Ambulance Association, came under the direct command of the Royal Navy's Medical Director General during the Second World War. VADs, whose popular image was of peachy-complexioned, beautifully brought-up young women, nursed and inspired sailors in Royal Navy hospitals at home and abroad and in sick bays attached to shore establishments. They were formally disbanded in 1960 but didn't get around to forming the VAD (RN) Association until last year. "I'm afraid it took us rather a long time to get ourselves organized," said Mrs Hazel Fallon, of Tunbridge Wells, ex-VAD.

PHS

# Unfair, Mr Speaker, unfair

Russell Johnston  
asks the Speaker,  
Bernard Weatherill,  
right, to give  
his party its  
fair say in  
Parliament



Not all that many members of the public fully realize how important speaking time is in the House of Commons. For the normal backbencher in the Conservative or Labour Parties, the first big question is: "Will I be called in this debate?"

The position of the Liberal Party over the years has been ill-defined. It has been tacitly understood that a Liberal would be called in every full-day debate, and that he would only exceptionally speak for more than 15 minutes.

At the same time there is no doubt that successive speakers were under continual pressure from the two established parties not to be generous to the Liberals. The emergence of the SDP obviously generated much discussion in "the usual channels" (the regular business contact which goes on between the Conservative and Labour Parties) but it was evidently decided that in view of the large number of sitting MPs who had joined the SDP, it would be impractical to attempt to deny them speaking rights.

Since the last election, however, it seems that a new and scandalously unfair settlement is being considered. At the end of the debate on the National Health Service on October 27, David Owen, leader of the SDP and Privy Counsellor, was called and spoke for 20 minutes. No Liberal was called.

After the debate's close, a group of the newer Liberal MPs protested and the

Speaker responded: "I am sure that the House would consider it extremely unfair if in every debate, and given that we have 650 Honorable Members, the chair had to call a Member from the Social Democratic Party and one from the Liberal Party."

This was a blanket statement with no reference to how long they might or might not speak. In other words, an allocation of 6 per cent debating time in a major debate to the SDP was considered fair and thought to be taken to include and satisfy the Liberals.

Last Thursday, in the foreign affairs debate, the precedent of October 27 was repeated. Roy Jenkins for the Social Democrats spoke for 20 minutes. I was waiting to speak for the Liberals and was told that I would be called later.

At 9.05 pm, with the Speaker in the chair, the choice again fell on the Opposition and

Tory benches, leaving myself for the Liberals with four minutes at most. I told the Speaker that to attempt to present the views of the Liberal Party on foreign affairs in such a time was ludicrous, and I was not going to try.

I felt and still do feel very bitter about this decision. Obviously an MP of 19 years' standing does not lightly criticize the Speaker, least of all in the press. But it seems to me that his ruling of October 27, if sustained, casts aside a reasonable if one-sided accord between Liberals and a succession of Speakers trying to be fair within an unfair framework, and wholly ignores the new situation created by the last general election.

Having faced up to the fact that 25 per cent of the votes only gives us 4 per cent of the seats, are we now being told that we only get 5 per cent of the speaking time according to rules made up on the way in the Parliamentary Chamber?

The electoral system, uniquely among European democracies, denies us parliamentary representation in proportion to our vote. To find this extended to a denial of our right to express our views, and do so at a time likely to be reported by the media, is deeply wrong and opposed to natural justice. The author is Liberal MP for Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber.

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## Lord Lane on society's apathy toward delinquency

# Cutting the roots of crime

Yesterday in the Court of Appeal Criminal Division we dealt with 16 appeals. Four were attacks on elderly people by teenagers. Let me mention one. Two youths aged 15 and 16 wearing masks broke into the home of an 83-year-old woman in Manchester. She was held at knife point and punched in the mouth, and needed hospital treatment for shock. She is no longer able to live on her own.

In those circumstances, one would have expected a mass mobilization of determination to attack this type of crime and to defeat it. It is not that the British as a people are incapable of such action. It was capability so to act that Hitler feared most about the British as a nation.

Why is that determination and that action missing from the scene here? Sir Patrick Mayhew, now Solicitor General, referred, when he was Minister of State at the Home Office, to the public's attitude in these words - "a weary familiarity with crime; a fatalistic acceptance in the community, that crime on a rising scale seems inevitable, unstoppable, almost unremarkable." He went on to say: "it would be a great paradox, though by no means an unthinkable one, if rising crime among the young has itself induced individual apathy towards the concept of wanting personally to reduce it, when it is the eradication of such apathy that is needed if the trend is to be reversed."

The trouble is that those who have to deal with crime and criminals have become more specialized and more highly trained. The very existence of criminologists is an

example in point. And the more that happens the wider is the separation between those experts and ordinary citizens who make up the community. A parallel can be drawn between wars of olden times which were fought with unsophisticated weapons when every citizen could visualize himself wielding arms and doing his bit (however reluctantly), and the wars of the present day, which are fought by specialists operating systems of high technology totally beyond the ken of the ordinary citizen.

We defer far too much to experts in the treatment of the criminal and we are content too readily to pass the buck to them instead of combating crime ourselves.

By the time the juvenile offender gets into the police station to be charged and gets into court to be tried and possibly pushed, the damage has been done. The court,

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when inflicting punishment, is providing possibly the only remaining sanction on the would-be criminal. Punishment is a sanction that *ex hypothesi* has been unsuccessful.

Remedy must be sought much farther back in the history of the delinquent. The various agencies, the specialists who deal with

delinquent youths, cannot succeed in a vacuum. The whole community must tackle delinquency.

It is no coincidence that the crime explosion started at a time of affluence, when permissiveness ceased to be disapproved and began to become the fashion. No one would pretend that there is proof that one led to the other or that there is any easy or single answer to the problem of why this explosion took place. But there are some significant pointers.

The roots of good social behaviour, the roots of stability and respect for others are to be found in the home, in a stable family life. A good and stable home provides rules for the child to observe, and in due course for the child to rebel against, to see what happens if he does, to test the water and provide excitement and adventure. If there is no such home, and if there are no such rules, something else must be found as a challenge for the rebel and the most obvious challenge is the criminal law. One fact is inescapable: a very large proportion of the youngsters who get into trouble come from broken homes.

What do we do to promote stability in the family? The answer is, regrettably little. Everything seems to militate against stability and little to promote it.

Sixteen-year-old children are, in some schools, given instruction about the processes of law and the result of breaking it. I wonder whether more time should not be devoted to demonstrating to them the even more serious result where there are young children of a broken marriage.

Since I wrote those words, I have been cheered to read in *The Times* of October 28 that the penny has dropped in one school at least. That is at Oundle, Northamptonshire, where a two-year project is starting in January to examine the problems of teaching pupils to organize their lives so as to prevent broken

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marriages later on. Mr Barry Trappell, the headmaster, appreciates how the problem ought to be tackled. He says: "We have to find out how the adolescent ticks over and only then can we think of educating their humanity." The syntax is open to minor criticisms, the sentiments are not.

What is not so encouraging is the observation later in the article that "the idea has been greeted with some interest and some scepticism by other public school heads." Probably, I imagine, because they are kicking themselves for not having thought of it first.

Instead of encouraging youngsters to think straight, instead of making clear what is good and what is bad, society deliberately blurs those boundaries which ought above all to be clearly defined.

Extracted from the *Darwin Lecture* delivered by the Lord Chief Justice in Cambridge on Tuesday.



Post Office engineers: time to take the picket armbands off again?

## Mercury: How the court let the TUC off the hook

On Monday in the Court of Appeal rug from under the feet of trade unions seeking to use their industrial muscle to frustrate government plans to privatize state-owned businesses and public services.

Sir John Donaldson and his fellow judges, granting an injunction to Mercury Communications halting the Post Office engineers' union blocking of the private telephone system, have restored the law to what everybody thought it was before Mr Justice Mervyn Davies made his unexpected ruling in favour of the union three weeks ago.

The Master of the Rolls ruled that there was "massive evidence" that the union was waging a campaign against political decisions to liberalize the industry and to privatize BT rather than a campaign to safeguard jobs. In other words, the battle was about politics rather than about the orthodox contents of a trade dispute - and political strikes are expressly forbidden under the employment statutes enacted since Margaret Thatcher took office.

However, the Appeal Court was pushing on a door that is more open than was generally realized. For all the huffing and puffing about "extra parliamentary action" to defeat Cabinet policies, it was quickly evident that the TUC is in no mood to go to the barricades over privatization. That much was clear from an exchange of letters between Bryan Stanley, general secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union (POEU) and Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, which was

evidently designed to lay the ground for an orderly retreat from the strike rhetoric of the Blackpool congress to the more constitutional behaviour. Mr Stanley asked whether his union would be in breach of congress policy if it obeyed the injunction that it expected the Master of the Rolls to grant Mercury yesterday. The TUC general secretary said it would not be contravening policy, adding for good measure: "There is no question of the TUC setting out to break or encourage members to break the law." Furthermore, he pointed out that though the Blackpool conference had voted to oppose the law, delegates had specifically rejected a hard-line strategy of the miners of "non-compliance with the legislation".

The point was driven home by legal advisers to the POEU, who told the union's left-wing-dominated executive that all they faced stiff fines, bankruptcy and possibly imprisonment if they defied the court order to call off industrial action against Mercury.

Under that kind of legal pressure and presented with a face-saving get-out by the TUC, it is only to be

expected that the Post Office engineers will knuckle under. But where does that leave the overall trade union campaign against privatization? The Blackpool TUC conference overwhelmingly backed a portentous resolution promising "a coordinated campaign of vigorous opposition to all proposals for hiving off parts of nationalized, state-owned industry or to otherwise introduce private capitalism into public industry."

The TUC general council was instructed to introduce a coordinated campaign "including the coordination of industrial action organized by those unions directly affected" so as to maximize the impact any such action would have in defence of public-sector services and industries. This stirring call to arms has gone the rounds of Congress House sub-committees dealing with the nationalized industries and the public services, where it sank practically without trace.

It was generally agreed that coordination was a very good thing (it usually is in the labour movement), but it was also recognized that unions under fire should initiate

action - then explain what they might want others to do, and why. Apart from that, there has been little coordinating, except of propaganda to go into trade-union journals, and the humbling of the POEU points to an even lower TUC profile.

There may still be some industrial action against privatization, for instance in the hospitals or elsewhere in the National Health Service, or in the heartland of the nationalized industries such as coal and rail, if the Government takes its ideological commitment to "hiving-off" to its logical conclusion.

But the lesson of the Mercury affair appears to be that the flexing of industrial muscle for essentially political purposes is considered rather out of fashion in the atmosphere of "new realism" being cultivated by the TUC.

This development must be of some interest to the Master of the Rolls himself, who as chairman of the ill-fated National Industrial Relations Court in the early 1970s, sent five London dockers to Pentonville for contempt of an order to cease picketing an East End cold store. The TUC called a one-day general strike to secure their release, but they were "sprung" by the Official Solicitor. It does not seem likely that Sir John Donaldson will have to contend with such heroics as this generation of trade-union law begins to play a bigger role in industrial relations.

Paul Routledge  
Labour Editor

Ronald Butt

## Video: the questions MPs must ask

We have come a long way since Sir Basil Blackwell, the publisher, shocked progressive opinion by his reply to the question, put to him as a witness in the Central Criminal Court, about what effect the book *Last Exit from Brooklyn* had had on him. "I felt that it depressed because I felt that my memory and mind was impaired, vitiated and defiled..." he said. "I felt I was seriously hurt by the book and wished to go away and cleanse my mind."

For quite some time afterwards, Sir Basil's honest words were good for a laugh among the enlightened as the new orthodoxy was implicitly established that nobody was materially affected by anything seen or read, and that the prime virtue of a liberal society was freedom to publish anything, first, because liberty is precious and second because there would be no harmful consequences anyway.

The 1959 and 1964 Obscene Publications Acts had prescribed as the test of illegal obscenity that it must have a "tendency to deprave or corrupt the persons who are likely to read it." In practice, the test was used to change received opinion. As pornography became harder and more violent, defence counsel had a merry and successful time putting it to juries that, as ordinary citizens, they could not really be depraved or corrupted by what they read or saw. If people were already depraved or corrupted, such material could not make them more so; if they were normal they would reject it with disgust.

When it seemed that this argument and the support of literary "experts" were not enough to defend the increasingly sadistic material coming to the courts, a new loophole was exploited. The vilest kind of material was defended, under the Acts, on the grounds that it came under the provision that allowed it as being for the public good or "other grounds of public concern" than literary or scientific merit. A team of sex "experts" trooped from court to court declaring that the most depraved and sadistic material was for the public good and therefore legal since it released some people's bottled-up sexual fantasies. Any idea that it might create them was dismissed. It was therapeutic. The obscenity law was thus made nonsense.

Such was the background when indescribably horrible video material began coming into homes where it could be seen by children and teenagers as well as adults. Much of this material is such that many of the MPs who saw some of it in the House of Commons recently felt physically ill. In recent years there has been increasing evidence from research and from particular court cases of a causal relationship between the addition to such material and violent crime.

Teachers have found increasing evidence that children suffer from personality disorders from witnessing so much horror and psychiatrists have discovered that some have been stimulated to imitate what they saw. Some quite small children have a diet of this material, sometimes even under parental auspices. It is no longer credible to argue that there is no possibility of a causal relationship between material of this sort and behaviour.

Tomorrow MPs debate the second reading of the Video

Recordings Bill, introduced by a private member, Mr Graham Bright, with the Home Secretary's general blessing. With a few exceptions all video works would have to be classified by a body appointed by the Home Secretary. Anyone dealing with material which had been refused any classification could be fined up to £10,000. Video works would be classified either as suitable for showing to any age, or to specified ages, or could be given a certificate for sale only in premises (sex shops and the like) licensed to sell them and to which only people over 18 were admitted.

This last category would mean in practice that such video works would require a Restricted-18 certificate. Even for the limited purpose of protecting children this is inadequate. There is no means of ensuring that R.18 sadism bought legally from licensed premises will not reach children in their homes or elsewhere, through friends or even the carelessness or malignity of parents.

Moreover, the assumption in the Bill that there is a cut-off point at 18 after which no harm can be done defies logic and experience. It is absurd to think that what may harm a 17-year-old cannot harm someone of 18, 19, 29, or 49, not to mention the victims of those who are so influenced. People who regard this question as one primarily concerning the individual's right to see what he or she chooses should say whether, now that there is evidence of consequential harm, they still stand on the dogma of individual freedom to choose.

The worst material will be given no certificate under this Bill, and dealing in it will bring a large fine. Such non-classified material will also still be subject to the general law on obscene publications. But the danger is that the proportion of non-classified material might shrink if the British Board of Film Censors were given this statutory duty and became as progressively hardened by what it processed as it has done with films. The classifying body should, like the police who deal with obscenity, have only a short tour of duty and should be widely representative of citizens' opinion.

The Home Secretary himself has some misgivings about this Bill. The Home Office does not want to drive R.18 material underground but Mr Brittan has let it be known that if he is convinced from the debate in Parliament that the public interest requires a ban on it, which the Lord Chief Justice is now virtually advocating, the Government would not seek to obstruct it.

That is the question MPs must think out tomorrow. They have to decide whether this Bill is something that could be built on in committee to remove the flaws or whether it would be better to reject the Bill and place with the Home Secretary the onus of bringing in his own measure. MPs must decide whether the Bill as it stands makes children more vulnerable by legitimizing material that might now be prosecuted. They must ask what is the relevance of the 18 age bar if the no-cause-and-effect argument has ceased to hold water. We can no longer afford to brush this dangerous material aside as boring stuff that you do not have to see. The same could have been said by the sophisticated about public executions, but who would claim today that they did not brutalize?

Peter Black

## Let's cut out the cacophony

A few years ago, on this very page, I wrote a piece protesting against the barbarism of pop music played too loudly in the wrong place. It was closely argued, illustrated by vivid examples, rich in telling metaphor. It even set out the simple change in the law which would protect the public against this scourge. I was confident that among readers of *The Times* I should raise a whirlwind of support, might as well have addressed the readers of *Motorcycling for Boys*.

Of course the very gradual increase in reproduced noise has something to do with this strange tolerance. It took half a century for the gramophone to become the 100-watt stereo amplifier, and every stage in the development of power and portability of radios and music players seemed short and logical.

Consider the pleasant things public pop is against: the quiet enjoyment of conversation, a meal out, gardening, even shopping ("Beg pardon?" says the pop-dragged girl on the check-out desk). Consider its licence to force itself on people who did not ask for it and do not like it. Consider the extraordinary indulgence it enjoys from the law.

Police told the luckless households living within half a mile of the Hell's Angels' Cookham party that there was nothing they could do about the amplified music beyond asking the ruffians to turn the noise down, and nothing to prevent them from turning it up again as soon as the police left.

The Department of the Environment publishes a booklet, *Battered by NOISE? What YOU can do about it*. The answer is, not a lot. The booklet starts off by defining noise as "sound which is undesired by the recipient", but from this firm base wanders into a maze of qualification.

The Control of Pollution Act 1974 gives local authorities powers to deal with noise. But noise has to amount to "a statutory nuisance". What kind of noise is that? Hard to say, because "noise" is a subjective thing. What can cause extreme annoyance to a person may be hardly noticed by another. It seems to me that if the law accepts the definition of

noise as "undesired sound" it is conceding that opinion about the nuisance should be that of the person who undesires it. Not so. It is the opinion of the environment officer who, if you ask him, and if the time is not outside his working hours, will visit the source of the noise (and for all you know, he may be a Hell's Angel in his spare time). It will ask him himself whether it is "reasonable" for him, as a average, reasonable person, to object to the noise, taking into account not only its volume but when, how often, and for how long the noise occurs. All these qualifications leave undisturbed the noisy party that goes on all night.

On the whole, the law controlling the noise people may make as entertainment is not as absurdly weighted against the victim. It has not been changed after taking into consideration modern methods of sound reproduction and the emergence of radio channels that pump out this stuff continuously. The law is quite stern against noise made in the street, but tolerates noise that reaches the street from within private property.

The essence of the case against noise is that it is unreasonable. Is it reasonable to drop a supermarket with music that forces customers to talk over it? Is it reasonable for the public address system at a gymkhana to broadcast announcements over five square miles? Is it reasonable to reproduce music at a pitch that everyone within earshot must hear?

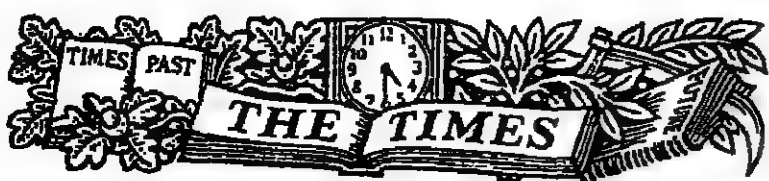
Which is reasonable; to do these things, or to object to them? As the objective is not to forbid, only to make it keep itself to itself, legislation can be generous. I suggest:

● No wireless set, tape recorder or record player may be played in any public place except when used with headphones.

● Where music is supplying a background sound, it may not rise to a volume which competes against speech.

● No music played in private property may be audible 10 yards outside the area within which it is played.





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## TAXPAYER'S MONEY

Every year the Chief Secretary to the Treasury has the unenviable but necessary task of bargaining with his Cabinet colleagues over their departmental budgets. The exercise proceeds on the curious assumption that a minister's success is to be judged by his ability to spend public money and that the Chief Secretary is doing his job well if he is conspicuously stingy. On this occasion the negotiations seem to have been relatively peaceful. The Cabinet - due to meet today to finalise matters - is reported to be very close to agreement on £126,500m as the planning total for public expenditure in 1984/85, the same figure as that envisaged in the last expenditure White Paper.

Any bargaining process involves a certain amount of posturing and over-dramatisation. It would be wrong to conclude that the recurrent squabbles between the Treasury and the spending departments imply fundamental disagreements in the Government about the level and composition of public expenditure. But the annual negotiations can become so acrimonious that they generate more confusion about short-run policies than understanding of long-run objectives. There is a need to restate why such importance is now attached to public expenditure restraint.

The Government's main aim in keeping spending down is to allow scope for reductions in taxation without endangering its budget deficit targets. Tax cuts tend to be regarded cynically as the means by which a Conservative Government rewards its middle-class voters and solidifies their support. The phrase "im-

proving incentives", which is often trotted out in this context, is associated in the public mind with not very plausible images of company directors and workaholic entrepreneurs putting in an extra five hours a week because standard rate has been lowered by 2p in the pound. The world is not like that - and Conservative ministers should not pretend that it is.

Tax cuts do indeed improve incentives, but in more subtle ways. There is little evidence that changes in income tax rates in the 25 per cent to 35 per cent range have much impact on work effort or attitudes; there is abundant evidence that effective marginal tax rates of 60 per cent or more on unemployed people seeking work and on the low-paid discourage attempts to take up job offers, to move higher on the pay ladder and to try harder.

But the strengthening of incentives is only part of the argument for expenditure control. Although it may seem trite to say that the level of public expenditure has a very major influence on the kind of society in which we live, the remark deserves some emphasis. In its tussles with the spending departments the Treasury's typical negotiating position is that more money is not available because the growth rate of the nation's resources is too low. There is a tacit assumption that, if growth were higher, the Government would happily contemplate extra spending.

The Government - or, at least, some of its members, including the Prime Minister herself - have frequently said that the purpose of privatisation is to

enlarge freedom of choice. We have been told many times that the state's role in business and society is to be curtailed because that will allow individuals to take decisions for themselves, instead of politicians and bureaucrats taking decisions on their behalf. This element in the case for restricting public expenditure is relevant irrespective of the economy's growth rate. Indeed, the Treasury's appeal to resource constraints as the main objection to departmental spending bids is an evasion of the real issues that the present Government is supposed to be confronting.

The recent fiasco over the National Health Service cuts exemplifies the point particularly well. If health provision were predominantly private the amounts that people want to spend on medical care could be decided by themselves, according to their own priorities and needs. There is a high probability that they would spend more than the Government, using their taxes, now allocates to the NHS. But, because the state acts as an intermediary between doctors and patients, the underlying demand for medical care cannot be easily identified. The NHS lacks the flexibility of response to consumer requirements that would accompany more extensive private provision.

It is encouraging that the Cabinet seems to have accepted without too much fuss the £126,500 limit for public expenditure in 1984/85. It would be even more encouraging if ministers could demonstrate some conviction about the long-run objectives of the exercise in which they have been involved.

## COOKING THE EURO-BOOKS

On the eve of the European Community's meeting of foreign and finance ministers, which begins in Athens this morning, the Brussels Commission, has thrown a spanner into the works. Quite without warning, it suggests that the basis on which each member state's budgetary balance has always been calculated should be changed in such a way as drastically to reduce (perhaps by half) Britain's real budget imbalance.

The Commission is always entitled, as the principal proposing body for the EEC as a whole, to make suggestions on behalf of the Community from a position of something like umpire of the competing national interests which absorb the representatives of member governments in the Council of Ministers. It is therefore, strictly speaking, legitimate for the Commission to come forward at this moment with a plan for minimising the British problem, presumably on the theory that the smaller this can be made to appear, the more easily it may be overcome. The wisdom of its intervention, however, is quite another matter.

Any claim the Commission has to speak *ex cathedra* on a matter of Community doctrine is hardly credible on this occasion when its proposal has been so bluntly described by the Budget Commissioner, Mr Christopher Tugendhat, as "cooking the books". What exposes this as a highly political manoeuvre is the extraordinary haste with which it has been rushed through the Commission. In effect, this is a

proposal which is designed to get support from the other member states by apparently reducing the dimensions of the British problem, and in the hope of knocking the British ministers off their position at Athens.

What appeal it will have to the other members remains to be seen. But Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues have every reason to reject it firmly. The proposal, roughly, is that the net budgetary contribution of member states is not the right way to think about the imbalance between contributions to the Community and receipts from it.

Thus it is suggested that the UK really receives more from the Community in agricultural benefit than can be calculated simply from its direct 11 per cent share of Community spending on agriculture. It also, the argument runs, benefits from the market stability British farmers enjoy as a result of Community spending on the purchase of surplus products and on exporting them with special subsidies. Therefore, budget accounting should be related to a country's share of total EEC production of a commodity that enjoys Community support. In other words, agricultural benefits should not be calculated simply on their direct geographical distribution.

The idea of approaching the British problem through Community expenditure rather than contributions is not intrinsically heinous. The Danes have suggested something of the sort. But this particular proposal makes

no sense since, as well as confusing transfers between member states with benefits to farmers, it also ignores the fact that benefits to British farmers are disproportionately paid for by British consumers through artificially high prices. Worse, the scheme has been devised so as to have the most adverse effect on the UK and then rushed out at a moment when it is likely to be most disruptive.

The government must stick to its formula of a "safety-net" to keep each state's contributions in a relationship to its relative prosperity in the Community, and cash limits for agricultural spending to prevent any increase in the Community's "own resources" from being swallowed by the voracious farm lobby. At Athens, Sir Geoffrey Howe has to convince the representatives of the other states that no solution is possible along the lines now argued by the Commission. Indeed, the more the Brussels device is contemplated the sillier it looks. The idea that Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues will look at this scheme and (with the scales falling from their eyes) announce that they now see it all clearly for the first time is patently absurd. To give serious credence to the Commission's ploy is to risk wasting six months' work and a financial crisis in the Community next year. Every member would lose by that but for Britain the loss would be nothing like as dangerous as being seduced by this curious exercise in Commission cosmetics.

## ROUGH JUSTICE

The last of the BBC's second series of television programmes under the title of "Rough Justice" went out last night. They have examined without sensationalism the cases of three prisoners convicted of murder which, it is confidently suggested, they did not commit. The presentations are not conclusive, but they help to focus attention on the procedures for identifying and correcting serious miscarriages of justice. That such occur in small numbers is well attested, and it is a reasonable suspicion that the list is not exhausted in those that are officially acknowledged.

There is a stickiness about the procedure for review which arises from several causes. One is the desire for finality in the processes of justice. Another is the capricious incidence of publicity, publicity being one of the levers for prising open the system. Another is the reluctance of judges in the Court of Appeal to overturn the verdict of a jury for anything short of compelling reasons. Another is the reluctance of the Home Secretary, who is custodian of royal prerogative of mercy, to override the judicial process.

These instincts are sound. Finality is one objective of the administration of justice. It is for good reason that the jury is left to determine matters of fact in

our system of criminal justice. The Home Secretary is right to respect the separation of the judicial and executive powers. But there is a higher and looser principle than these: the doing of justice. And nowhere is it more important that justice be done than in instances where it has first miscarried with wrongful conviction and imprisonment.

The proposal has come at various times from several respected quarters that the functions of the Home Office and Court of Appeal in the matter should be to a large extent transferred to an independent tribunal or advisory body. In that way, it is suggested, the stickiness in the procedure for review could be eased, better uniformity of practice achieved, and justice more surely and swiftly accomplished. The proposal has not found favour with governments.

In its latest review of the matter earlier this year the Government signified a preference for keeping the review process as far as possible within the existing judicial system. Accordingly the Home Secretary has said that he will be prepared to use more readily in future his power of reference "out of time" to the Court of Appeal Criminal Division; and the Lord Chief Justice has said that the Court intends to be freer in exercise of

its own powers to receive evidence or order a retrial.

The advantage of this way of proceeding is that it avoids the likelihood of an independent review body becoming in effect a further court of appeal, though one applying different rules of evidence and procedure to those obtaining in the rest of the system of criminal justice. The disadvantage is that some of the hardest cases requiring review are ones in which it appears that the standard rules of evidence and procedure have for one reason or another failed to yield justice. If so there may be little to be gained from putting them through the same mill once again.

The combined operation by Home Office and Court of Appeal should lead to some improvement in this difficult area of last-ditch justice. There is some doubt as to whether the Court of Appeal is not already so burdened as to make it hard for it to play its allotted role by freeing itself from some of its self-imposed restraints. And there is still a case for instituting a procedure, more regular than the present ad hocery, for those rare cases where there is strong reason to believe that the norms of the accusatory system have at the end of it all not served justice, and the inquisitorial approach must be tried.

## Law on intervention in civil strife

From Dr M. H. Mendelson

Sir, Lord Home's letter and your leader of November 4 criticise international law for condemning intervention in support of governments overthrown by force.

Modern international law does in fact permit military intervention by outside states in support of established governments in certain limited circumstances. It does not, however, permit such intervention in support of governments which have actually been overthrown by internal revolution or coup d'état if the successors are effectively operating as a government.

This is irrespective of the constitutional credentials or political complexion of the overthrowers or their overthrowers. In short, the emphasis is on effectiveness, rather than legitimacy.

These rules are defensible to the extent that they protect the right of nations to determine their own system of government, but it must be admitted that the emphasis on mere effectiveness is not what one would wish for in an ideal world.

It is, however, probably the only workable principle in a world where governments differ widely in their conceptions of political legitimacy and where the refusal of nation states to confer real power on communal institutions means that any attempt by one ideological block to impose its own standards can lead only too easily to confrontation with the other block in which the rights of small nations get trampled underfoot and which could prove fatal to all.

International law is not, as some of your correspondents seem to think, an irrelevance. Despite some serious breaches in the name of

"national security", the rules relating to military intervention in civil strife do to some extent act as a restraint - not just on the West - and help preserve a system of minimum order, however precarious. Neither utopianism nor anarchy would do the job so well.

These may be depressing conclusions, but the realism of international law does not make it an ass; and those who wish for a safer and more just world would do well to encourage greater obedience to the law rather than its rejection.

Yours faithfully,  
MAURICE MENDELSON,  
St John's College,  
Oxford,  
November 8.

From Mr Andrew H. McLuskey

Sir, Recent events in Lebanon and Grenada raise quite starkly the question of when it is justified for foreign Powers to interfere in the affairs of other countries. The answer must be very rarely, if at all.

What is clear is that countries do sometimes run into situations requiring outside help. For this we need a reformed United Nations with the credibility which at the moment it obviously does not possess.

Reformed and reinvigorated it must be, however, if we are not to become reliant on the ad hoc policing of the superpowers, more reminiscent as it is of the age of Metetrich than the needs of the twentieth century.

Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW H. McLUSKEY,  
124 The Meadway,  
Tilghurst,  
Reading,  
Berkshire,  
November 5.

## Tanzania and Grenada

From the High Commissioner for Tanzania

Sir, In your editorial of November 4 you have, once again, managed to do what only *The Times* can do - to weave in a gratuitous attack on Tanzania when discussing an issue that has little to do with Tanzania. I find this obsessive interest in my country to be flattering if somewhat mystifying.

I believe it was never your intention to put the Tanzanian position in perspective. However, I trust you will allow your readers to know, through this letter, that Tanzania was one among 107 countries which supported the UN resolution on Grenada.

They will also be interested to know that 27 countries abstained from voting on it while only two countries not directly involved in the invasion opposed it. If you go through the list of countries in each category, and especially in the last two, you will find little comfort for the spirited support you have given to the invasion.

As for the parallel you seek to establish between the Grenada situation and the 1964 Tanganyika army mutiny, the war to repel Amin's aggression and what you have described as "what Zanzibar suffered in the 1960s", I can only say that once again you have your facts rather badly mixed up.

True, the Government of the newly independent Tanganyika invited in British troops to help put down a mutiny by the army in 1964. But unlike the invasion from Grenada, the legality and nature of Tanzania's invitation (and, incidentally, of simultaneous invitations by Uganda and Kenya, which faced similar mutinies) were never questioned or disputed at any time.

That is a very important difference for people whose concern for the truth is not compromised by their fear of an ideology they do not share.

As it stands, the sentence relating to the war against Amin does indeed leave your readers with the impression you intend - that Tanzania invaded Uganda to topple Amin. Yet you must know very well that Amin's downfall was a direct result of his invasion and annexation of Tanzanian territory in November, 1978. Much as we detested that buffoon and murderer, we managed to coexist with him during the eight years he ruled Uganda - until the day he invaded our country.

I have a feeling that we are not likely to agree on "what Zanzibar suffered in the 1960s", so I will not attempt to convince you. In the minds of Tanzanians, and especially of Zanzibaris, however, there is no doubt that the starting point must be the fatal mistake made by the departing colonial power of granting independence to a minority of the population, thus denying the majority their right to self-determination.

This mistake dealt a mortal blow to the efforts to build democracy in Zanzibar. You may not like what happened in 1964; but you should not forget what caused it to happen.

Yours sincerely,  
A. B. NYAKYI,  
High Commissioner for Tanzania,  
Tanzania High Commission,  
43 Hertford Street, W1,  
November 7.

## Sellafield emissions

From Professor Emeritus R. Whitlam, FRS

Sir, There are two issues. One is the incidence of cancer and is being investigated. The other question of deep concern is the level of radioactivity from Morecambe Bay to the Solway Firth.

How is it that sit from Raven-glass is apparently too radioactive to be put into ordinary refuse in Manchester? Do standards for waste disposal vary from place to place? An impartial survey should be made and the findings published.

Yours faithfully,  
R. WHITLAM,  
Department of Physiology,  
The University, Leicester,  
November 4.

ally, of simultaneous invitations by Uganda and Kenya, which faced similar mutinies) were never questioned or disputed at any time.

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Yours sincerely,  
A. B. NYAKYI,  
High Commissioner for Tanzania,  
Tanzania High Commission,  
43 Hertford Street, W1,  
November 7.

Nothing would speak more powerfully of the solemnity of the marriage vow than the insistence that one of the persons to whom it was made could release from it. It might also provide some incentive to avoid vindictive bitterness that too often accompanies the progress of divorce through the courts.

Above all, it would remove the responsibility for remarriage from the hands of the clergy and restore it to those to whom it belongs - the men and women themselves.

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM SHAW, Chaplain,  
Exeter College, Oxford,  
October 31.

## Buildings at risk

From the Chairman of the Historic Buildings Council for England

Sir, The Historic Buildings Council shares the anxiety expressed in your columns about the Government's proposal to divide the functions of the Greater London Council's Historic Buildings Division between the DoE, the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, the 32 boroughs and the Corporation of London. This arrangement would leave the capital - unlike any other city - without a unified service in charge of its historic buildings, conservation areas and archaeological monuments.

It is unrealistic to suppose that an equivalent service could be provided by 35 separate bodies. The London boroughs are not equipped in staff or financial resources to take it over, nor would it be economic that each should be so equipped.

Such fragmentation would not be repaired were the division to be retained in a purely advisory capacity without powers or funding, an arrangement which would be both expensive and futile.

London's great historic and architectural interest makes it the centre of Britain's tourist trade. This inheritance, now a major economic asset, would be put at risk were the professional staff on which it depends to be dispersed.

This need not happen. The Historic Buildings Division could be transferred either to a joint board nominated by the Metropolitan boroughs or possibly to the new Commission for Historic Buildings and Monuments.

Yours faithfully,  
JENNIFER JENKINS, Chairman,  
Historic Buildings Council for England,  
25 Savile Row, W1.

## British business has eye on recovery

From the Director General of the Confederation of British Industry

Sir, Your leader, "Getting on with the job" (November 8), accusing British business of "whingeing on" about the Government and the economy, was clearly written by someone not attending the CBI conference which it purported to comment upon.

The theme of the conference was "managing recovery". In speech after speech business leaders addressed themselves to this subject, stressing their determination to build on those gains which have been made in making British industry more competitive.

In referring to "the convenient cant of corporatist thinking", whatever that is, you are guilty of empty phrase-making not in any way related to the serious debates which took place in Glasgow.

To say that the CBI is not representative of British business as a whole hardly bears examination. Our membership comprises companies which employ more than half of Britain's workforce; our reporting of economic trends as businessmen see them is unchallenged. As your newspaper reported at the time, our latest trends survey showed recovery continuing but indicated a warning that its pace might slow. To say that it is not to "whinge" but simply to recognize facts.

What British business needs now is a reduction in those overhead costs which it is not itself responsible for. This is all we are asking the Government to do; the rest we will look after ourselves and no organization has given greater support to the Youth Training Scheme than the CBI.

It is true that Britain will have a higher growth rate than any other EEC country. The figures in our October economic situation report confirmed this. To take the major ECC countries, France is likely to have a decline in GDP of one-half per cent, Italy a fall of one per cent, and even the German economy is only expected to grow by one per cent.

Incidentally, in reference to your suggestion that 1,000 jobs are created every day in manufacturing, you must remember that total manufacturing employment is still

## Teenage betting

From the Chairman of the National Council on Gambling

Sir, Those who are concerned about the social impact of gambling, particularly on the family, must have considerable reservations about two clauses of the Betting, Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) Bill which is due to have a second reading on November 11.

The present law prohibits young persons, under the age of 18 years, from entering licensed betting offices. This is so because it is generally agreed that, in view of their greater vulnerability resulting from immaturity, they are particularly liable to gamble to excess. Furthermore, the provision of sound and television broadcasting and other forms of entertainment and refreshments in such premises is prohibited.

Clause 3 of the proposed legislation relaxes the restriction on the employment of young persons in betting offices so that 16 and 17 year olds could be employed there. Although the law will still prohibit young persons, under the age of 18 years, from betting, the proposed changes will create an anomalous situation which will make it even more difficult than at present to enforce the age restriction. It is therefore likely to lead to an increase in teenage betting.

The significance of this is increased by clause 1 of the proposed legislation. This would allow the Secretary of State to make provision by order, subject to the affirmative resolution procedure, concerning the availability of sound

## Video violence

From the President of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association

Sir, I am afraid you presume too much in your leader "Video violence" (November 5), when you say that Mr Graham Bright's private member's Bill is designed "to legislate against what is illegal already". If I was not writing in the hope of publication in *The Times* I would say: "You must be joking!"

As it is I will simply point out that the whole problem of violent obscenity which is destroying our culture has its roots within our hopelessly ineffective obscenity legislation.

That is the basic challenge, and unless the Government faces up to this and takes action to deal with the problem on that level then all other initiatives, however well intended, will be purely cosmetic and superficial.

I was sorry, too, to see your implied criticism of what you are pleased to term a "garish and indiscriminate" press campaign for legislation to control "video nasties", for surely, compared to them, the said campaign has been but sweetness and light! What has happened to the old "Thunder"? The risks to which the young and vulnerable - and I suspect that includes us all - are exposed through this vile trade are so great that nothing short of a passionate determination on all our parts to act quickly and effectively will suffice to control it.

It would appear, too, that you have few qualms about the appointment of the British Board of Film Censors as the classifying body. Are you not aware the films classified by that body have come before the courts? The inevitable corruption of judgment which has increasingly characterised the activities of that body should make it the last, not the first, alternative.

To stand any hope of success the classifying body should be appointed entirely independently of

declining, for the record, by nearly 14,000 a month on average. And company liquidations in the third quarter of this year, 17 per cent up on a year earlier, were at the highest ever recorded level.

Yours etc  
TERENCE BECKETT,  
Director General,  
Confederation of British Industry,  
Centre Point,  
New Oxford Street, WC1.

From Mr Michael Dobson

Sir, Your leader suggests that the message from the CBI conference is one of unrelieved gloom. Those present would surely disagree. Let me record three of my main impressions.

There was overwhelming recognition that the reduction of the inflation rate is a major achievement which has led to an entirely new economic climate in which industry can begin to grow from the disastrous position in which it found itself as a result of the Government policies of five years and more ago.

Secondly, current realism in pay bargaining is making industry more competitive in world markets.

Thirdly, Government support for industry, particularly for smaller industry and the unemployed, is welcome and helpful.

What has been interpreted as pessimism is realism - recognition that we still have a long way to go to achieve world competitiveness and that all our effort will be in vain if pressures for higher pay and a shorter working week, unmatched by productivity, are not successfully resisted.

Government help is needed, however, for example to implement CBI recommendations leading to fairer international trading conditions and the prohibition of unitary taxation. These are things that industry cannot do for itself.

Rest assured there is no lack of optimism or ability to take advantage of the opportunities which exist.

Yours, etc  
MICHAEL DOBSON, Director,  
Western Fuel Company,  
Commerce House,  
37/101 Abbey Road,  
Torquay,  
Devon,  
November 8.

and television broadcasting, video recordings, other forms of entertainment and refreshments in betting offices. There seems no purpose for this provision unless it is proposed to relax the present restrictions.

The existing facilities in licensed betting offices include the Exeter commentary. There is a great deal of evidence that excessive gambling is encouraged by this commentary. The introduction of television into betting offices will undoubtedly be a further incitement encouraging ex-

As far as the provision of entertainments and refreshments is concerned, these additional facilities in betting offices will attract some people who would otherwise have gone there. They must therefore be seen to be what they are - an encouragement to bet.

There is something to be said for improving the general conditions in licensed betting offices so as to avoid a situation where betting transactions are carried out in drab surroundings. However, such improvements can occur without any change in the existing law. The admission of young people and the provision of facilities which would encourage those who otherwise would not go into betting offices to do so and, when there, to bet excessively, should be opposed.

The price of allowing this to happen will be an increase in pathological gambling and the consequent disturbance to the family and the community.

Yours faithfully,  
E. MORAN, Chairman,  
The National Council on Gambling,  
26 Bedford Square, WC1.

the film industry - with which the BBFC is so deeply involved - from education, medicine, women's organisations etc, and, in our view, its members should serve for no longer than two years.

I have a final suggestion to offer and it was made to us by Mr John Smyth, QC, following his study of Mr Bright's Bill, and I quote it with his permission. It is that clause 4(1) should be amended. This deals with the authority to be responsible for determining "whether or not video works are suitable for showing".

Mr Smyth suggests that the words "in the home" be added to that clause. Such an amendment would surely solve an awful lot of problems.

Yours sincerely,  
MARY WHITEHOUSE, President,  
National Viewers' and Listeners' Association,  
Ardleigh, Colchester, Essex,  
November 6.

## Sewern bridge

From Mr Michael F. Levey

Sir, What can the Managing Director of HTV (November 5) possibly think will be the benefit of banning all but heavy goods vehicle traffic? Private traffic now serves to space out the rest.

The only result of Mr Wordley's unthinking solution would be 32-ton trucks bumper to bumper and side by side. Few civil engineers would regard this as an improvement.

Yours faithfully,  
M. F. LEVEY,  
41 Laurier Road, NW5.

## Bird in the hand

From Lord Abernethy

Sir, If Bats succeed in capturing a City Eagle (report, November 3) what a Star performance!

Yours,  
ABERNETHY,  
8 The Sanctuary,  
Westminster, SW1.  
November 4.







# THE ARTS

## Theatre

### All too knowing an imitation of America

Dear Anyone  
Cambridge

This Birmingham Repertory show is a thoroughgoing attempt by an all-British team to create an all-American musical. Through the career of an agony columnist, *Dear Anyone* sets out to expose the private life of Manhattan, drawing on the combined resources of the musical theatre to take you inside the minds of the anonymous crowd.

So I thought, at least, during the opening street scene, where the stage fills up with grinning citizens, all swapping cheerful clichés without looking at each other and then bursting into the self-explanatory chorus "Everything's Terrible - Help!", where Geoff Stephens' score explodes with the lithe pugnacity of Bernstein and Don Black's lyrics encapsulate a different personal crisis for every figure from the betrayed husband to the boy whose girlfriend has had the locks changed. Here, it seems, is a show with some serious business in the world.

We then meet the star, Mercedes Taylor née Schneider, starting her first day as Pandora on the *Daily Globe*. Two doubts promptly set in. What kind of a name is Pandora for someone in her job? A columnist ought to be able to handle the horrors that fly out of the box. As for the newspaper, Ralph Koltai

has indeed designed an imposing globe-shaped shell, but when it opens it proves to contain only one office. Is Mercedes running this outfit by herself?

Such doubts lie dormant for the next few scenes, as Jane Lapotaire chats away to the house as she moves in, filling us in on Mercedes's past life (ex-switchboard girl), before throwing herself into the job.

It works out quite well, even though she does mix up a bashful New York cab-driver with an illiterate from Boston; thanks to her they meet and marry, and the whole thing is tied together in a single long-limbed number. From this success she goes on to bring comfort to the futuristic community, and the stage duly fills with a neo-Nazi, speakers, and a hefty old party in an electronic blue leotard. But, wait a minute; can this be the same show? Previously Pandora's correspondents were people with whom we could sympathize. Now they are being paraded as freaks.

At the same time, Pandora herself is undergoing a change. First, she has started working late and relations with the long-suffering Danny (Peter Blake) are growing strained. Then comes the fatal day when Harry the mailman wanders into her now enlarged office, toy arrow through the head, as usual, and all ready for a chat about Red

Indians, and she tells him to call her "Miss Taylor".

Jack Rosenthal's book does nothing to prepare you for this volte face; but, once it has happened, the show likewise switches from a theatrical *Miss Lonelyhearts* to the uninteresting question of Will Success Spoil Mercedes? For the record, it does. But, just as she was pitchforked into the life of an ambitious haridan, so it only takes a critical letter from one of her staff to bring her back to her nice unassuming self and into Danny's arms.

If that seems an unlikely story, couple it with the idea of a newspaper in which no other journalist appears, and in which old Harry is appointed features editor for insulting the management. A great deal of talent has gone into this unhappy spectacle; and Tudor Davies's robot-like choreography retains its integrity to the end. There are also some powerfully theatrical numbers, such as Harry's gospel shout of triumph with which Stubby Kaye brings the house down and Stephanie Voss's revenge song as a jilted cleaning lady; Miss Lapotaire, who exploits a fine line in nasal derision as the "Princess of the Public Conscience", also takes off into song with vibrantly scaring power. Another director might have done more than David Taylor to pull the scattered elements together. But, as it stands, the show is

badly dislocated, and comes over as a knowing imitation of America rather than America itself.

Irving Wardle

## Ultramundane ICA

Performance theatre at the ICA usually forces spectators to draw the awkward, inevitably subjective, line between communicative use of images and pseudously private references. The fact that two members of the Station House Opera company are former members of the Theatre of Mistakes gives a frame of reference for the dramatic use of human bodies as supple images for houses and furniture.

Desire, the declared subject, also animates some expressive sequences but there is much that is less tightly and carefully conceived than what I have seen of Theatre of Mistakes work. The programme belatedly refers to a Borges story, suggesting that the show's comprehensibility is largely parochial for the benefit of readers. In particular, the cat's hanging upside-down by their heels or calves needs more internal explanation. So do the motifs of spying and imprisonment in the disjunctive dialogue. One boy knocks at another, like a door, seeking admission

to a garden. He strips him off to conduct a medical inspection. Uncomfortable situations combine two girls embracing desperately on piggyback, or a girl rolling a writhing boy through inconsolable and tortured poses until he escapes to get himself and his clothes together.

There are many such expressive images of relationships' violence to personality; but why are they accompanied by elaborately prosy sentences (poorly delivered) where the principal motifs seem absent? The garden imagery suddenly produces a blinding flash: "This hedge was yew, quite impenetrable", says someone, echoing Webster's chilling yew/you pun in *The White Devil*. Then comes a quintet, justifying the piece's description as opera, bringing in successive voices chattering in directions down the Euston Road, someone in custody or a Genesis-like family tree as fruit is consumed over a prone body.

That figured rug used as a Tudor-style tablecloth or romped over by girls crying "Take me again" to each other; does its flowered pattern link it with the garden? And what is its relation to the Freudian image of the wardrobe? Clothed or ajar, creative works like this have as limited a life as virginity, sterility or a locked garden.

Anthony Masters



Long-suffering Peter Blake as Danny with Jane Lapotaire's vibrant Mercedes in *Dear Anyone*

## Television Literary rituals

The subject of last night's Arena profile (BBC 2), Anthony Powell, has just been described by Anthony Burgess as a parochial English phenomenon, if the Sunday newspapers are to be believed; but Burgess seems to have forgotten that fiction must have a strong local flavour before it can acquire the unconscious universality of great art.

Powell's range of reference is, in any case, very wide. *A Dance to the Music of Time*, his sequence of 12 novels, is concerned with the nature of mortality and in that dance we can see madness as well as the rituals of "ordinary" life. These are not small things, and they can be exemplified in "upper middle-class" English life as well as anywhere else.

The sequence contains some 400 characters which, as Alison Lurie suggested in the programme, represents the extent of any one man's acquaintance; as a result, Powell has been able to evoke the recognizable fabric of life itself. His genius lies in his ability to sustain the whole enterprise without boring his readers or, apparently, himself. It is an infinite capacity, not for taking pains but for drawing out the implications of his original vision.

He seemed an affable man, although it came as something of a shock to have this mild but somewhat elusive character suddenly supplanted by the figure of James Fox playing him as a young man. The physical resemblance was apparent, but Fox has a much more solid and self-conscious exterior than that of the novelist himself.

Although last night's documentary provided a good introduction to Powell's "world", it did not achieve much else. As is often the case with writers, it revealed very little of himself to the camera. His life may not be commonplace, but neither is it unusual - except, perhaps, for his habit of making collages out of newspaper photographs and pasting them on the walls of his house. Fortunately, the obvious analogy was not made.

Peter Ackroyd

with the mostly conventionally played band parts.

Moreover, Guy has chosen to bring into this essentially abstract, jagged music a very literal group of references to the Lament from Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. It just did not work; the gap between the two styles was too wide.

The concert began and ended with Bach; Maurice Bourges played Strauss's Oboe Concerto with a gloriously vivid tone; and Stephen Varcoe, in Mozart's aria "Per questa bella mano", deferred to Barry Guy's stratospheric bass obbligato. The orchestra was good; Richard Hickox conducted.

Nicholas Kenyon

## City of London Sinfonia/Hickox Queen Elizabeth Hall

Barry Guy is one of the most versatile of London's orchestral musicians: his double-bass playing can often be heard underpinning baroque orchestras, chamber groups and contemporary ensembles. He has also been active as a composer, developing techniques for his instrument which involve the use of amplification and distortion.

The most successful of his essays in this medium have been written for himself as soloist: the athletic energy and visual involvement both add something to musical material that has seemed diffuse or meagre. On Tuesday, in a sparsely-attended concert, the City of London Sinfonia unveiled a work by Guy as the first of a group of commissions.

*Voyages of the Moon* uses material from his brilliant solo piece *Statement II*, and therein lies part of its problem: the additional orchestral parts fragment and complicate the textures, and the electronic janglings of the bass mix oddly

Paul Griffiths

## Concerts

### A very occasional glimpse of Britten

CBSO/Rattle  
Birmingham Town Hall

All within a few weeks, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra has restored to the repertoire two Britten pieces long unheard. Both, curiously, were titled as Occasional Overtures, the occasion of the first being the opening of the Third Programme; a resilient performance under John Carewe last month suggested that Britten already had some presentiment of the network's future in making his festive contribution

Philharmonia/  
Handley  
Festival Hall

Britten thought of it as his real Op 1: the *Times* critic in 1936 hoped it represented a stage which the composer would "safely and quickly get through". Recent recordings, from Pears and Söderström, have alerted us to the true vigour and virtuosity of Britten's first orchestral song-cycle, *Our Hunting Fathers*, given a

rather worried. In any event, he never wanted the piece played again.

The second overture, introduced on Tuesday, had been even more completely suppressed. There had been no earlier performance at all, and when the score came to light in the 1970s Britten had no recollection of having written it. Nor is that too surprising: it is not the kind of music that will lodge long in the memory.

However, nothing the great artist creates is irrelevant, and there may be some clues here to the shaping of Britten's orchestral imagination on the eve of *Peter Grimes*. Certainly, in a piece that starts with a chorus of oboes filing in after a slow march beat has been established by pizzicato strings and percussion, *The Young Person's Guide* is not far away.

Britten wrote the overture in the United States during his last months there in 1941-42, and his publishers have wisely taken that excuse to rechristen it *An American Overture*, thus saving confusion with the Third Programme flourish. The new title fits the music strangely well, for when the violins join the slow march they sound as if

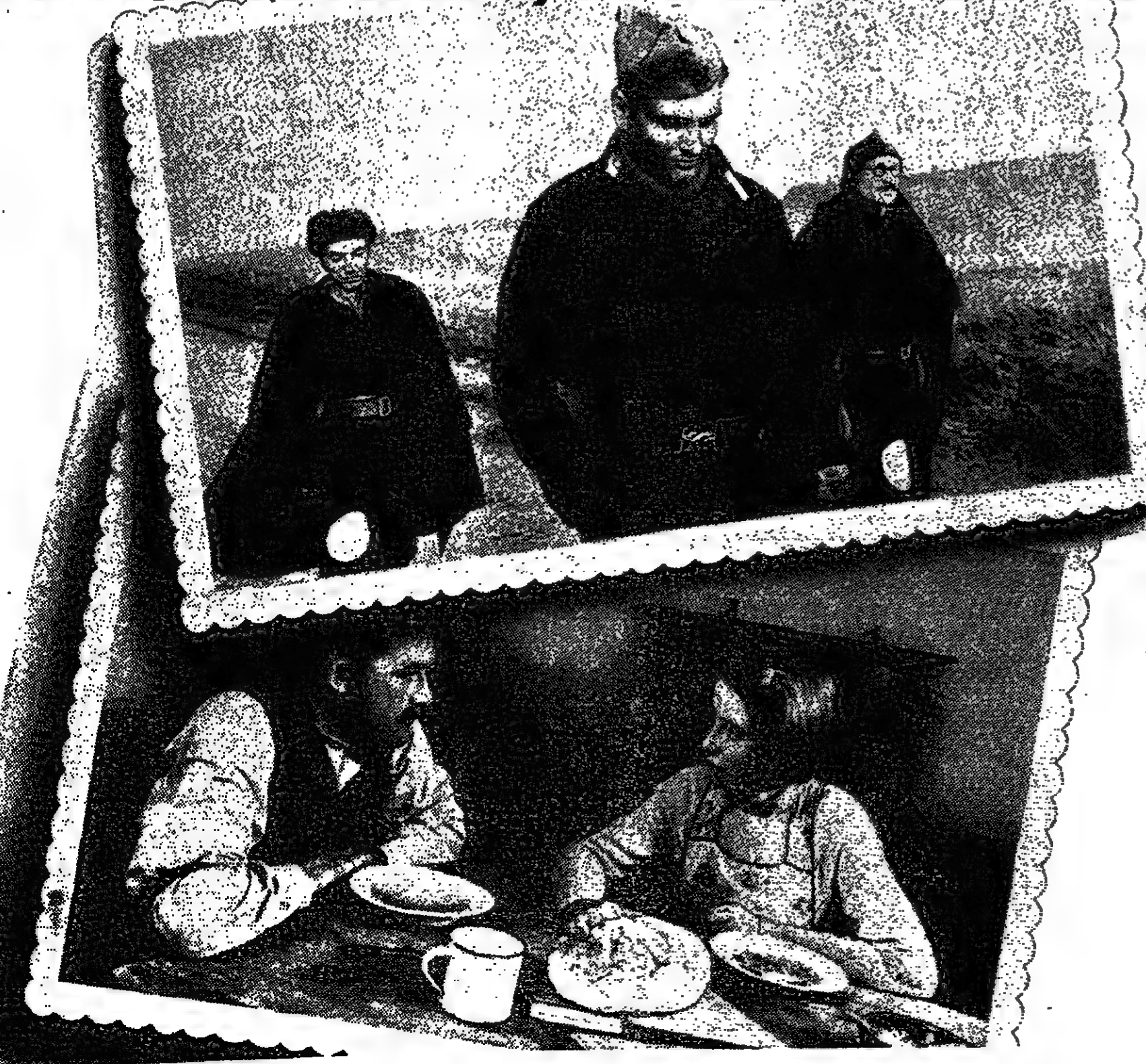
man and beast, hunter and hunted, look back and forth at each other's image, were pointed further by Miss Gomez's shrewd distancing.

The very effort of the voice in the high register of "Rats Away" played on its raw nerve- endings: the flux of phrasing over the shuddering accompaniment of Messiaen's monkey lament found its just ambivalence; and the chill verbal brilliance of the Dance of Death gave searing chase up to its last, fearful cry of "Whurrri!".

Hilary Finch

**LAST 4 PERFS**  
Tonight, tomorrow at 7.45  
Sat 3.00 & 7.45  
Eduardo de Filippo's  
*Inner Voices*  
in a translation by  
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Robert Stephens in  
the central role of  
"an entrancing  
piece of eccentric  
drama".  
STANDBY:  
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## HE'S A PRISONER OF WAR. SHE'S A PRISONER OF LIFE. AT 9.30 TONIGHT, YOU'LL BE CAPTIVATED.



- 5.00 Countdown**  
The popular panel game which tests your skill with words and numbers.
- 5.30 Fanny Waterman's Piano Progress**  
Fanny Waterman's pupils leave the classroom for the concert platform.
- 6.30 The Good Food Show**  
News, views, and sound advice on food, with Prue Leith.
- 7.00 Channel 4 News 7.50 Comment**
- 8.00 The Malibu World Disco Dancing Championships**  
Tonight, it's the World Final, and the atmosphere at Xenon is electric.
- 9.00 Soap**  
More mayhem with the Tates and the Campbells.
- 9.30 Film on Four: Another Time, Another Place**  
It is September 1944. In a remote Scottish village, the romantic young wife of a farmworker pursues a love affair with an Italian prisoner of war. But for both of them, the freedom they seek is unexpectedly elusive.
- 11.25 What The Papers Say**
- 11.40 Our Lives: The Knockers' Tale**  
The first of eight documentary drama films about the lives of young people from London's East End.

KEEP YOUR EYE ON **4**



## MARKET REPORT by Derek Pain

## Spotlight on electricals

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Oct 31. Dealings end, Nov 11. Contango Day, Nov 14. Settlement Day, Nov 21.

Electricals made the running yesterday. Hopes that next week's financial statement from the Chancellor could be encouraging for defence contracts was the important factor behind the advance.

But there were other influences. GEC continued to draw strength from the recent re-rating by Merrill Lynch and Plessey rose 10p to 220p on the settlement - no details are being revealed - of a damages lawsuit by the American Robin Corporation. When it launched \$100m (£67m) in damages.

After an indifferent start, equities edged forward and gilts made modest progress.

Blue Circle Industries fell 2p to 418p after it denied rumours that it intended to sell its 55 per cent-owned South African offshoot. When the speculation was at its peak, the shares were 13p up at 433p.

Plessey, the casino group, jumped 25p to 363p as Grand Metropolitan picked up 335,000 shares, lifting its shareholding to 29.94 per cent. Grand Met said it had acquired more Plessey shares "pending the outcome" of the

Monopolies Commission inquiry into the Plessey-Robin merger and had "no intention" of buying more shares.

The Commission is due to report in the next two weeks. ICI, with the American enthusiasm fading, fell 5p to 242p.

Mobon, maker of industrial coatings and paints, is on its way to the USM. Hill Samuel is placing 1,250,000 shares at about 95p each. The company, which has done rather well from the North Sea oil and gas development, expects profits of at least £800,000 in its current year.

580p. Mr Jim Cook, an analyst at Wood Mackenzie, the stockbroker, claims that the present share price is "not sustainable" and expects a fall to 540p.

Henderson Group, the investment adviser, said in a suggestion that it has been the

big buyer sending Akroyd and Smithers shares soaring recently. Henderson was a large holder of Akroyd shares before it sought a stock market quotation in the summer. Akroyd edged 3p higher to 18p. Octopus Publishing announced a £6m takeover of Barnes Books, a Newmarket-based children's books company. It will pay £3m immediately, with the balance paid according to profits performance.

In September, Octopus joined forces with Habitat Moulthearse to establish a new publishing company to specialise in publications on various aspects of modern living. Octopus shares rose 5p to 428p on the news.

Consistants (Computers) was the victim of falling bids hopes, falling 30p to 560p and Kodak International continued to suffer from the lower profits warning, losing another 5p to 242p.

Humberstone Electricals fell 1p to 14p following its £486,000 cash-call. Shares are being offered at 12p on a one-for-three basis.

Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, the Younger group,

Shares of H P Bulmer, the cider makers, have fallen 60p from their high to 265p although interim profits next month should be nudging £17m and analysts expect up to £17.5m for the full year compared with £13.5m last time. The cider market continues to grow but competition is intensifying. Latest to get involved is Greenall Whitley, the largest regional brewery, which plans to make its own cider next year.

managed to end with a small gain following the apparent settlement of its damaging Edinburgh drymen's strike. The group, which is at last emerging from a poor profits

run, has been hit two strikes and some analysts were suggesting that if the drymen's strike went on for much longer the group's profit revival could come to an abrupt halt.

Even so, some had scaled-down profit projections, which had stretched to £53m, against £41.1m last time.

Commercial Union, down 1p at 175p on its third-quarter figures, has not noticed any unusual share register movements following the outbreak of bid hostilities over Eagle Star. Mr Cecil Harris, the chief executive, said yesterday.

General Accident, also reporting yesterday, fell 12p to 421p. Bullish stockbroker comments influenced clearing banks, although lower-than-expected profits clipped Hill Samuel, the merchant banker, 9p to 260p.

In properties, Lloyds continued to reflect the reduction of the Norwich Union share stake, falling another 10p to 250p.

The Irish oil stocks were firmer, with Atlantic Resources leading the pack with a 24p gain to 690p. But elsewhere among oils Sea fell 25p to 240p.

## RECENT ISSUES

Company	Price	Change
Acorn Computer Grp 1p (120)	100	+10
Adams Computer 1p (120)	100	+10
BP 25p (100)	250	+25
Colson 1p (120)	100	+10
D 1 Security 1p (120)	100	+10
Edinburgh Food Markets 1p (120)	100	+10
European Airtel 1p (120)	100	+10
Fluor 1p (120)	100	+10
Fraser 1p (120)	100	+10
French Computer Grp 1p (120)	100	+10
Inter Group 1p (120)	100	+10
Leather Goods 1p (120)	100	+10
Lloyds 1p (120)	100	+10
Morgan 1p (120)	100	+10
Octopus Publishing 1p (120)	100	+10
Plessey 1p (120)	100	+10
Robinson 1p (120)	100	+10
Scottish Breweries 1p (120)	100	+10
Sea Containers 1p (120)	100	+10
Shaw 1p (120)	100	+10
Stewart 1p (120)	100	+10
Tottenham 1p (120)	100	+10
Woolworth 1p (120)	100	+10

Issue price in parentheses a Unlisted Securities. \* by tender.

100000 High Low Stock Price Chg % Yield Div Yld

## BRITISH FUNDS

100000 High Low Stock Price Chg % Yield Div Yld

## SHORTS

100000 High Low Stock Price Chg % Yield Div Yld

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## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Supervision: the cost of further City freedom

The City must expect continuing supervision from the Bank of England and others, whatever happens in the great revolution that is now sweeping through our financial markets. But the regime will — or at least should — be flexible and pragmatic rather than a dead hand. Such was the burden of an important speech last night from Mr Christopher MacMahon, the Bank's deputy governor.

In what is clearly intended to be a marker for the Bank's future attitude to the rapid changes that are now afflicting the Stock Exchange, Lloyd's and the money markets, Mr MacMahon presented what he called the "intellectual case for the supervision of financial markets".

While financial services appear on the surface to represent an outstanding example of the efficiency which can result from classical competitive capitalism, he argued, this was deceptive. In the Bank's view, the need for supervision rests on three principles: the need to eliminate conflicts of interest; the need to protect individuals against unreasonable loss; and the need to avoid "contagion". Mr MacMahon's term for what we know as the knock-on effects of liquidity crises in banks which can threaten the security of the whole banking system.

These principles apply in different ways to different financial institutions — and the solutions are not, and need not be, uniform. On the crucial question of single or dual capacity in the securities market, for example, Mr MacMahon said it is arguable whether it is better to retain separate broking and jobbing functions, or



Christopher MacMahon: laying down markers for the Bank's future attitude

whether to switch to single capacity and provide investors with protection in the form of statutory full disclosure of all bargains and prices, (although even this may not be sufficient, he hints).

The crucial point in the Bank's view is that there must be supervision of some sort. Financial institutions "will inevitably find that there is no simple dichotomy between prohibition and freedom or free markets and dirigisme. If institutional strait-jackets are loosened, for example, disclosure or other supervisory obligations may grow more heavy", Mr MacMahon said.

The need for an "eclectic and pragmatic approach" will only be reinforced by the increasing blurring of the distinctions between building societies, banks, securities dealers, insurance companies and others in coming years.

## Reuters: a prize too big for integrity alone

After 5½ hours discussing proposals from merchant bankers S. G. Warburg and accountants Bland Hamlyn for the restructuring and flotation of Reuters yesterday, the board of the news agency transformed into financial services growth company reported "useful progress" and put the whole plan back for another month.

It is hard enough to persuade the warring Fleet Street magnates who own two fifths of Reuters through their association, to agree on anything that might benefit each other. Add in the representatives of the provincial press, the Australasian counterparts, the need for unanimity, tax problems and the tough subject of maintaining the integrity of loss-making news services and you have a classic recipe for deadlock.

But the prize is too big for any to lose. Reuters' financial services, the epitome of the new telescopic world of information technology could be worth anything between £1 billion and £1.5 billion on a conventional stock market flotation, despite the latest orrush of competitors.

Newspaper shares have jumped 50 per cent this year, purely on hopes raised last autumn that Reuters' profits of £50m this year — perhaps double within five years — will be central, rather than a mere formal note, to newspaper company accounts. As the projected spring flotation of

Reuters draws near — projected at least among enthusiastic Fleet Street proprietors — new doubts appear. The Chancellor family, which has been closely connected to the agency, has raised the spectre of the independent source of Britain's foreign news sacrificed in the race for rapid profit.

Mr James Callaghan, the former prime minister, yesterday weighed in, warning the Attorney General of "public disquiet".

Reuters' chairman Sir Denis Hamilton has repeatedly made it clear that the agreement of trust (not a legal trust) between shareholders to maintain the independence of Reuters from any single interest must be maintained. This, indeed, coupled with the need of provincial newspapers to support the Press Association through which they hold Reuters interests, is at the heart of the difficulties over the various flotation schemes.

Should there be two classes of voting and non-voting shares, with the newspaper companies retaining 30 per cent voting stakes or perhaps a few special shares, like those created for some privatized state companies, to preserve the agency's independence? The Australians have already arranged to receive Reuters dividends direct, while retaining control through the Australian Press Association. This might yet be a model for the future.

# Shares in BP's Forties field awarded to 19 companies

By David Young  
Energy Correspondent

Nineteen companies have been successful in winning a stake in BP's lucrative Forties North Sea oil field at £7.5m a share. The sale of 39 ¼ per cent units, plus the previously announced sale of two 1-per cent stakes, will bring BP £338.5m in cash.

The largest batch of ¼ per cent shares — six — have been bought by Elf, the French oil company. Britain's Charterhouse Petroleum won five.

BP will announce the names of the successful bidding companies on Friday. However, Charterhouse yesterday confirmed that it had been successful and Candecca said that it had won two shares.

The other successful bidders include Rio Tinto Zinc (four shares), Texaco (four), Sovereign (two) and Ultramar (four).

Charterhouse was successful in bidding for one share, as were Barclays, North Sea General, Saxon Oil, Century Power and Light, Union Jack, Viva Oil, Plascom, Industrial Scotland Energy, Norwich Union, Morsk Hydro and Histan Oil.



Mr Peter Walters: BP will get £338.5m from share sale

The sale of shares in the Forties field gives the purchasers a stake in the North Sea's most productive network of wells. It will also give them tax advantages in that they will be able to offset against tax exploration and development costs.

The Government acted to prevent the tax advantages being restricted to the few who had little to diminish interest in the sale, with 39 companies making 82 bids. Brokers had estimated

that the sale would produce at least £460m for BP.

One company, Anvil Oil, has confirmed that it was unsuccessful in winning a share, and has cancelled a planned flotation to pay for the hoped-for purchase.

BP, whose chairman is Mr Peter Walters, emphasized that the Department of Energy must approve the transfer of shares. The Department said last night that it expected to give approval in time for BP formally to complete the sale on January 3.

RTZ's award of four shares comes at a time when the company is expanding its interest in the North Sea by offering to buy its present partner's interest in 14 other North Sea blocks, in a deal worth £60m. RTZ has made the offer, which includes a 5 per cent stake in the recently-onset Maureen field, to British Electric Traction.

BET said yesterday that it had decided that the time was right to dispose of its North Sea assets. The sale to RTZ would be approved by the Department of Energy by mid-December.

Charterhouse won its five shares with bids pitched at only £10,000 above the eventual striking price. David Roberts, finance director, said last night that the purchase was coming at the right time for the company, with profits from the Forties field allowing it to develop its exploration and operating capabilities.

Charterhouse has holdings in the other North Sea success, Thistle field, as well as shares in the Enderby field and in potentially important onshore leases in Sussex.

Another confirmed purchaser, Charterhall, also has existing North Sea interests. The Forties field came into operation in September 1975 and reached peak production of 300,000 barrels a day in 1978. Since 1981, production has fallen to an average of 447,000 barrels a day.

More than £890m has been spent on developing the field and the new shareholders — BP is left with 83.13 per cent — will be liable for a share of the annual operating costs, estimated to be £110m a year.

## Gilts make small gains

Gilts recorded modest gains yesterday, with hopes of lower inflation outweighing disappointment with Tuesday's money supply figures.

The Government broker's supplies of 9½ per cent, convertible Treasury stock were exhausted. It was the firmness of gilts which helped equities — as measured by the FT 30-share index — to reverse an earlier fall and close with a smattering of modest gains.

Trading was, however, light and there were signs that most big investors had remained on the sidelines.

The market is likely to continue to be quiet until next week's financial statement from the Chancellor.

### STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 721.8 up 1.7  
FT Gilts 82.26 up 0.17  
FT All Shares 448.12 up 0.99  
Barrington 20.10  
Datastream USM Leaders Index 96.12 up 0.41  
New York Dow Jones Average (latest) 1224 up 9.86  
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9,297.10 down 22.16  
Hongkong Hang Seng Index 866.76 down 6.29  
Amsterdam 145 down 1.3  
Sydney AO Index 705.9 up 5.6  
Frankfurt Commerzbank Index 1003.4 up 6.8  
Brussels General Index 128.44 down 0.06  
Paris CAC Index 140.8 up 0.2  
Zurich SKA General 294.8 down 0.4

### CURRENCIES

**LONDON CLOSE**  
Sterling \$1.4850 up 5pts  
Index 83.9 down 0.2  
DM 3.9675 down 0.0075  
FrF 12.07 down 0.0050  
Yen 350 down 0.05  
Dollar Index 127.9 down 0.3  
DM 2.6705  
**NEW YORK LATEST**  
Sterling \$1.4855  
Dollar DM 2.6650  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
ECU 5.70073  
SDR 2.709337

### INTEREST RATES

**Domestic rates**  
Bank base rates 9  
Finance houses base rate 10  
Discount market loans week fixed 8½-9  
3 month interbank 9½-9¾  
**Euro-currency rates**  
3 month dollar 9¾-10  
3 month DM 6¼-6½  
3 month FrF 13¼-13½  
**US rates**  
Bank prime rate 11.00  
Fed funds 9¼  
Treasury long bond 100-100½

### GOLD

**London fixed (per ounce):**  
am \$380.50 pm \$383.00  
close \$383.75 (\$258-258.50)  
New York (close): \$384  
Kruggerand (per coin): \$384.50-386 (\$265.50-266.50)  
Sovereigns (new): \$89.50-90.50 (\$20.25-21)  
\*Excludes VAT

## Accountants in inquiry over Manx bank

By Andrew Cornelius

The Institute of Chartered Accountants is examining the role of the international accountancy firm, Midgley Snelling, in advising clients to invest in International Finance and Trust Corporation, the Isle of Man bank which collapsed in September 1981.

The ICA inquiry follows the acceptance by the bank's creditors of an £8.7m settlement against Midgley Snelling. According to the magazine *Accountancy*, the settlement was agreed by Midgley Snelling in return for a world-wide amnesty for its partners against any further actions of negligence.

An article in today's edition of the magazine says that the settlement agreed by Mr Patrick Shortall, of Cooper and Lybrand, the IFTC liquidator, is probably the largest ever against a British firm of accountants.

Under the terms of the settlement sanctioned by a Manx court last week, creditors will receive a settlement of 80p in the pound from Midgley Snelling. The bulk of the settlement is likely to be met by Midgley Snelling's underwriters, the article says.

Mr Edie Ray, president of the ICA, visited the Isle of Man earlier this week to discuss the audit of banks and insurance companies on the island and other matters following the recent publicity attracted by the case.

He said that the ICA was determined to see that its members maintained the highest professional standards wherever they practised.

## Sainsbury's profit soars by 28%

By Jonathan Clark

The opening of six new supermarkets, together with an unexpectedly strong growth in grocery sales in existing shops, has helped J Sainsbury to report again profits which astonished the City.

First half profits increased by 28 per cent to £62.5m, a result which marked the analysts' very best expectations. Six months ago few expected that profits to more than £100m. This year, however, a disastrous Christmas, the group should make £125m or more.

Sainsbury has doubled its market share of the grocery business in the last six years and is now without doubt Britain's biggest food store company after ousting the Co-operative movement from the prime position during the last year.

Sir John Sainsbury, the chairman and chief executive, said yesterday that he was confident that the company could continue to expand in Britain without saturating the market or running into monopoly problems.

The increase in profits was helped by the opening of new shops last year and in the first half of this year but the volume sales in the existing stores was still considerably higher than Sainsbury had expected. Fears that the push into the north, homeland of Sainsbury's arch-rivals at Asda, would slow down growth have not materialized.

The stores generally increased efficiency and productivity, again despite fears that such growth must slow after the one off jump achieved by extending the opening hours last year.

Food price inflation, despite a weather-induced rise in the summer and autumn, is still running at about 4.5 per cent with little likelihood of much change this year.

Retail margins have increased from 3.9 per cent to 4.4



Sir John Sainsbury: confident of continued expansion in Britain

J Sainsbury 28 weeks to 6.10.83  
Pretax profit £62.5m (£48.8m)  
Statutory earnings 127.9 (£10.1p)  
Turnover £1,590m (£1.18m)  
New interim dividend 2.4p (1.5p)  
Share price 438p up 8p

per cent. Market share now is 9.5 per cent (though figures for the grocery trade are notoriously unreliable) against 9.1 per cent at the end of last year and just 4.9 per cent in 1976-67.

Homebase, the do-it-yourself joint venture with a positive contribution to group profits in 18 months when 23 stores should be trading.

Associated company profits, derived largely from the Sainsbury Centre hypermarket joint venture with British Home Stores, increased from £2.5m to £3.2m.

Sir John reiterated that the stake taken in Shaw's a US supermarket chain in New England, is no more than a toe in the water with no immediate plans for US expansion.

The store redevelopment programme will total £175m this year but Sir John does not expect to end the year with a net interest charge.

## Pension fund managers reject expulsion plan

By Philip Robinson

The National Association of Pension Funds is to re-think a plan on how to expel its members.

This follows a special meeting in London yesterday — immediately preceding the conference — when pension fund managers voted 48 to 30 against giving the ruling 24-strong council *carte blanche* to expel a member if it wished.

Opposing the move, Mr Donald Lester, company secretary of Cambridge Electronics Industries, said that the resolution "contains no mention of safeguards against the council making arbitrary decisions or any mention of an opportunity

for funds to explain their actions".

Opinion within the council has also been divided. The association is now considering whether the decision to expel shall require a 75 per cent council majority. It is likely to seek further approval at the annual meeting in May.

Mr Tom Heyes, the chairman, said that there had been "a case involving one of our members, and we discovered that we had no power to expel funds".

The meeting approved amendments to the association's rules allowing it to take legal action or to support action taken by members.

## Early gains on Wall Street

New York (AP Dow Jones) — Stocks widened their gains in early trading on Wall Street yesterday. The Dow Jones Industrial average was up almost 10 points to 1,224 and the transportation index was up 3½ points to 589.

Advancing issues were more than 7½-5 over declines in moderately active trading.

Mr Robert Wibbesman, vice-president of Cantor Fitzgerald in Beverly Hills, California, saw a reasonably high chance of a short-term rally. "It seems ready for a little bounce," he said.

General Motors was up ¾ to 75½. General Electric up 1 at 53½. Exxon up ¼ to 38½. International Business Machines up ½ to 122½. Honeywell up 1½ to 124½. Chrysler up ¾ to 27½ and CBS down 1½ to 69½.

Staroline was 132½, up ¾. Burlington Northern 102 ¾, up ¾. Cummins Engine 75, up 2½. Western Union 35, down 1½. and Walt Disney 58½ down 1½.

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SPECIALISTS IN RETIREMENT PLANNING

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## CWS plans £8.5m plant on Deeside

Co-operative Wholesale Society, principle supplier to Britain's 7,000 Co-op stores, is to build its first factory for half a century. An £8.5m plant, to be built at Shotton, Deeside — a steel closure area — by the first half of 1985, will produce mostly breakfast cereals. At least 150 jobs will be created.

Lord Bruce-Gardyne is joining the board of Central Trustee Savings Bank as a non-executive director. Better known as Mr Jack Bruce-Gardyne, he was Economic Secretary to the Treasury in Mrs Thatcher's last government.

Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is expected to give his verdict tomorrow morning on whether to refer the competing bids by Allianz Versicherungs and BAT Industries for Eagle Star Holdings for investigation by the Monopolies Commission.

The 28-man ruling council of Lloyd's of London meets today to elect a new chairman to succeed Sir Peter Green, who retires at the end of the year.

Bourne Leisure, a privately owned operator of 15 holiday caravan parks, has dropped out of advanced negotiations to buy the travel and leisure division of Ellerman Lines. Ellerman said last night that it was not in discussions with any other bidders for this part of its business.

Greater concentration in British banking was forecast by Mr Philip Wilkinson, chief executive of the National Westminster Bank yesterday. He believes banks will develop financial supermarkets and expanded services during the next decade through acquisition and innovation. "Overall numbers are bound to shrink. Many smaller, less adept banks will be absorbed or disappear," he said.

## British groups hopeful about Chinese deals

By John Lawless

The Chinese are negotiating with seven big British companies which are thinking of setting up factories in China.

The Sino-British Trade Council, which coordinated a Bank of China delegation visit to London last month, refused to name the companies involved. It confirmed, however, that all the negotiations are "at an advanced stage".

There is now speculation that both sides may be going out of their way to counterbalance feelings over Hongkong with increased trade and investment initiatives.

Mr Peter Walker, the Energy Secretary, arrived in Hongkong yesterday for talks. He went there from China, confident that Britain can conclude "hundreds of millions of pounds in contracts" in Chinese energy development.

Shell is negotiating a cool

venture there, and Rolls-Royce another for power generation turbines. China has signed a memorandum with GEC to buy non-nuclear components for a \$6 billion (£4 billion) station in Guangdong province, to the north of Hongkong.

Mr Walker is meeting executives of the China Light and Power Company today — as well as touring the colony's new Castle Peak power station for which GEC is supplying £500m worth of equipment.

The significance of the Bank of China visit, however, is that the Chinese not only want Western companies to come in with technology, but to help arrange finance for project.

Representatives from provincial cities and companies in Changsha, Harbin, Shanghai and Xiamen were also in London to visit United Kingdom companies.

## New deal for big portfolios

British Land and Mr Brian Bland formally unveiled yesterday the joint investment management company with which they hope to attract the big private portfolios traditionally managed by merchant banks or stockbrokers.

The £10m funds under management now have been put up by British Land which has a 50 per cent interest in the company which is called Guildhall Investment Management. Mr Banks owns the other 50 per cent. He is best known for his role at Slater Walker, which later became the Britannia Arrow Group, where he became managing director.

Mr Banks believes strongly that the stockbrokers' adopted client stockpiles their nominal charges for investment management will increase and investors will look for alternative advisors.

Clients will need to have funds of at least £100,000 and probably £250,000.

## Commercial Union and General Accident performance 'dented'

# Hurricane costs two insurers £17.6m

By Our Financial Staff

Hurricane losses in the United States dented the underwriting performance of Commercial Union Assurance and General Accident, two of Britain's largest composite insurers in the third quarter of the year.

Despite continuing problems in the US, both companies managed to increase pretax profits compared with the same stage last year. Commercial Union boosted pretax profits from £24.3m to £43.8m in the nine months to September 30, while General Accident's pretax profits rose from £33.6m to £44m over the same period.

Hurricane Alicia cost Commercial Union £7.6m and contributed to a worsening US underwriting loss of £149.6m in 1983 last time. The Hurricane cost General Accident

General Accident Fire and Life Assurance Corporation  
Nine months to 30.9.83  
Pretax profit £44m (£33.6m)  
Statutory earnings £25.9p (18.8p)  
Investment income £153.7m (£143.2m)  
Underwriting loss £111.7m (£11.5m)  
Share price 421p, down 12p

£10m and contributed to a US underwriting loss of £21.2m, compared with a loss of £8.4m last year.

Total premium income for the period increased from £157m to £173.2m at Commercial Union, while investment income was up from £173.5m to £193.8m.

Commercial Union's British underwriting losses improved at £28.4m compared with losses of

Commercial Union Assurance Company  
Nine months to 30.9.83  
Pretax profit £43.8m (£24.3m)  
Statutory earnings 5.39p (3.63p)  
Investment income £193.8m (£173.5m)  
Underwriting loss £191.7m (£173.9m)  
Share price, 175p, down 1p

£32.4m at the third quarter stage last year. However, Mr Cecil Harris, chief executive, said that trading conditions in Britain and the US continued to be difficult, although efforts to cut costs continued.

Staff numbers in the US have been reduced by 1,300 in the past 18 months, while the major part of the move out of the head office building in London to other locations has been completed.

A worsening loss experience in the motor insurance field means that Commercial Union policyholders will suffer a 7 per cent rise in premiums from January 1 next year.

General Accident said that without the hurricane losses the company would have managed a small underlying improvement in the US underwriting experience. Total group premium income rose from £910m to £1,028m, while investment income increased from £143m to £153m.

On publication of the results, share prices in the insurance sector were easier. General Accident led the way with a 12p fall to 421p, while Commercial Union shares were down by 1p at 175p.







Philip Robinson reports on attempts to solve one of Britain's fastest growing crimes

# Time to tighten up policing of the fraud law

The Government is preparing at last to make another effort to streamline and strengthen the methods used to investigate and prosecute frauds - but not with too much haste.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, publicly recognised, in a Parliamentary written answer this week, that there is widespread concern about a range of problems generated by allegations of large-scale commercial fraud.

But the action the Government is now taking suggests that Whitehall is not awash with ready solutions. Instead, the Home Secretary and the Lord Chancellor, Lord Hailsham, have adopted the well-worn technique of appointing an independent committee, to be chaired in this case by that veteran of dealing with insoluble problems, Lord Roskill.

The committee's brief is to look at the way the courts conduct fraud cases to see if any changes are needed in law or procedure to secure "just, expeditious and economical disposal of such proceedings".

This is only one of the apparent deficiencies in the control of fraud - and the Government may take other initiatives elsewhere - but it is an aspect that causes frequent embarrassment.

The record of successful prosecutions of alleged fraud is hardly impressive and has allowed City institutions to mount a sharp, critical attack.

"Unquestionably," wrote the Council for the Securities Industry, the City's ultimate self-regulatory watchdog, "the greatest weakness of the present scheme of regulation lies in what is governmental responsibility, but one that goes wider than the Department of Trade - the failure to deal effectively with commercial and financial frauds."

The CSI, whose chairman Sir Patrick Neill is a Queen's Counsel, continued: "Anyone who commits an elaborate fraud knows that he probably will not be prosecuted and that, if he is prosecuted, it will take years to formulate charges and he will probably escape the main charges. There is little point in improving the finer points of conduct if gross fraud goes unpunished."

The attack was contained in the CSI's submission to Professor Laurence "Jim" Gower for his investigations into protection of the investor. His review of City financial markets



and their regulation is due out before the year end. It has given rise to speculation whether the Government will allow the City to continue regulating itself or impose a Whitehall-based system backed by law.

Some mix of the two is the likely result. But the CSI's reference to getting the basics of regulation right before attempting any fine tuning, hit home at the trade department.

Recently Mr Alex Fletcher, minister for corporate and consumer affairs, as guest

## The police have criticized the DPP's attitude

speaker at a self regulation conference organized partly by the CSI, acknowledged the problems over fraud.

He said: "There have been a number of complaints that it is too easy to get away with fraud. I hope that it may be possible to announce some further measures for tackling it before very long."

The Government had hoped to announce other more specific measures with the Committee of Inquiry, but an apparent

failure to agree on the measures has delayed these. However, they are expected before the end of the year from the Department of Trade.

The measures are likely to include a larger budget and increased number of lawyers working on fraud cases for the Director of Public Prosecutions. It is also expected that moves will be made to formalize the teamwork carried out under FIG, the Fraud Investigation Group network.

This group, set up in 1980, comprises the police, trade department officials and the DPP. FIG's job is to bring interested authorities together at an early stage in a case, partly to avoid the time-consuming repetition of exchanging documents later, and partly to take an early decision on whether police inquiries should continue. Decisions of this sort are based very much on the chances of a successful prosecution at the end of the case.

The DPP takes a cost-effective view. That has drawn criticism in the past from more than one or two disgruntled policemen who, after spending many hours investigating often intricate detail of company fraud, or an international

extortion racket, find the DPP shuffles the papers for lack of the chance of success, or absence of the alleged culprit.

FIG is designed to give early guidance to the police on which lines of inquiry are more likely to produce firm evidence.

One senior police fraud officer said: "We have found these groups helpful. The great advantage for us is that you get the Director of Public Prosecutions staff saying at an early stage 'you would be better pursuing this or that'. It saves us chasing a lot of red herrings."

## The Miller-Carnegie trial cost an estimated £500,000

Even experts can find it hard to distinguish between reckless incompetence and fraud.

Despite this advice, FIG's recent performance record is patchy. The prosecution of Miller-Carnegie, a commodity broker, and FIG's first case, was dissolved half way through.

The Metropolitan Fraud Squad currently has four other FIGs outstanding, one of them into Mr Keith Hunt whose commodity business collapsed

this year owing £10m. The City of London Fraud Squad still has two cases outstanding.

Fraud is one of the fastest growing crimes. Last year reported incidences jumped 42 per cent. In 1982, a total of 329 cases had been reported to the police. At the year end 96 substantial cases were still under investigation with losses totalling £100m.

The Miller-Carnegie trial lasted three months and cost an estimated £500,000.

Mr Michael Levi, a lecturer in criminology at University College, Cardiff who has made a study of frauds, doubts whether you can talk about cost effective justice but, he says, the present system of prosecuting fraud does make it very difficult to justify embarking on these costly exercises.

The Government departments are in need of some success. But in financial markets, it is sometimes difficult for the police to tell legal sharp practices from fraud.

It is perhaps surprising that the police politely turned down an offer of general assistance from the Institute of Chartered Accountants this year. The Metropolitan Police Commissioner explained that he was getting sufficient help from accountancy firms.

The Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise are also still absent from these formal, note-swapping forums. Both have a vested interest in spotting and bringing to book dubious practitioners. And both would benefit from early outside guidance on whether to continue on a long and tortuous path, which may yield a room full of files, but little capable of standing up in court.

But, if detection is a problem, explaining the detail of a fraud case to 12 good men and true presents its own difficulties. Failure by juries to comprehend vital evidence has led to pressure that the jury for fraud cases be replaced with a panel of experts.

It is unlikely that the Government would attack this particular part of the British judicial system just now.

But workable measures are needed both to support overburdened specialist police squads and to head off any retaliation from the City which might find itself cornered by the recommendations of Professor Gower.

## Second win for British shipyard

By Edward Townsend  
Industrial Correspondent

Troubled British Shipbuilders, set to record losses well in excess of £100m this financial year, yesterday announced the second piece of good news in a week - £5.5m order from Iceland.

The corporation said that it had won the order in the face of fierce competition, from Far East shipyards. The 3,000-tonne deadweight refrigerated vessel will go to the Samband Line of Reykjavik and be built by Appledore Shipbuilders of North Devon.

The Iceland contract follows the £100m order announced on Tuesday by Sunderland Shipbuilders which, it was said, had been won against competition from 32 other European yards. Mr Axel Griston, managing director of Samband, said that 20 yards had been contacted about his ship and Appledore had been given the order after a thorough comparison of the technical solution, price, financing scheme and operational cost.

British Shipbuilders' price would have been subsidized by the Government's intervention fund, which covers 15 per cent of the cost and is designed to bring British prices more into line with cheaper Far Eastern rates.

Appledore's design involves the construction of a vessel that can operate as a refrigerated cargo carrier, container ship or bulk carrier. Mr Joe Ball, the yard's managing director, said: "It will be the most versatile vessel ever built at Appledore."

Meanwhile, the Japanese Ministry of Transport's latest issue of ship construction permits shows that orders placed in October against the previous month's 646,220 gross tonnes. The figure, however, is more than double the number of permits issued a year earlier.

# SAINSBURY'S

## Further excellent growth.

The unaudited interim results for the Group were:

	1983	1982	
£000	28 weeks to 8th October	28 weeks to 9th October	Change
Sales*	1,359,697	1,179,988	+15.2%
Retail Profit	59,314	46,246	+28.3%
Retail Margin	4.36%	3.92%	
Associates	3,172	2,546	+24.6%
Profit before Tax	62,486	48,792	+28.1%
Profit after Estimated Tax	43,740	34,154	+28.1%
Dividend per Share	2.4p	1.9p	+26.3%
Earnings per Share	12.78p	10.10p	+26.5%

\*Includes VAT £57.245m (1982 £46.861m)

### Salient Points

1 Retail profit increased by 28% and net margin percentage improved to 4.4%, reflecting further advances in productivity and efficiency. Our exceptionally strong price competitiveness was fully maintained.

2 Sales were up by 15.2% and volume growth (sales adjusted for inflation) was approximately 10%, a level sustained consistently over the past two years.

3 Six new supermarkets opened during the period and nine are planned for the second half. Total investment during the year is expected to reach £175 million.

4 Our DIY and garden centre subsidiary, Homebase, traded well. Four new stores opened in the first half of the year and three more are due to open in the second half. The performance of our associate company, SavaCentre, continued to improve, with sales in all five hypermarkets increasing in real terms.

5 The Company has completed its purchase of 21% of Shaw's, an American supermarket chain based in New England, for \$21.2 million.

### Employee Share Ownership & Profit Sharing

1 The 1982/3 distribution under our Profit Sharing Scheme resulted in 687,000 shares going to 6,970 employees who chose to take their distribution in shares. A further 18,840 staff received £4.75 million cash from profit sharing.

2 As usual, no provision for profit sharing has been made in the half year's accounts since the level of profit share is dependent on the full year's results. However, if the Scheme's formula were to be applied to the half year's results alone, it would produce a distribution of £3.8 million to be taken in cash or shares.

### Interim Dividend

The Directors have declared an interim dividend of 2.4p per share (1982 1.9p) which, together with its associated tax credit, is equivalent to a gross dividend of 3.43p. This dividend will be paid on 20th January 1984 to shareholders on the Register of Members at the close of business on 29th December 1983.

## Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Bardays	9%
Barclays	9%
Chubb Bank	9%
Consolidated	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Net Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† Mortgage Base Rate.  
\* 7 day growth rate on basis of £10,000, 0% to £10,000 and £20,000, 0% to £20,000 and 1% to £20,000.

### APPOINTMENTS

## The Halifax names director

Halifax Building Society: Mr R. W. Archer, a member of the London board, is to be a director of the society.

Co-op Bank: Mr Peter Laybe, finance director of Edinburgh University, is to join the bank as general manager (financial control).

Lloyds Bank International: Mr C. J. Murphy has been made assistant general manager, Brazil, based in Sao Paulo. Mr J. R. Avery, previously manager, Rio de Janeiro branch, has been appointed principal manager, Latin America division, London, in succession to Mr Murphy. Mr R. R. Seggins, previously manager, syndicate department, London, will be manager, Rio de Janeiro branch, in succession to Mr Avery.

Forward Trust Group: Mr David Gilman has been appointed chief accountant, and Mr P. A. Renn becomes senior manager, business analysis and planning.

London Merchant Securities: Mr Gerald Nash, formerly a group staff director, has joined the main board.

Stough Estates: Sir Donald Maitland is now non-executive director.

Hampton Gold Mining Areas: Mr G. Gardiner has been appointed a director. Mr A. J. Williams has become divisional director with responsibilities in the minerals division and Mr D. A. R. Harvey has become senior mining engineer.

Biomechanics International: Mr Ian Weston Smith has been appointed chairman.

E. Japling and Sons: Mr D. F. Coyle has become managing director.

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Manufacturers of Wylex Electrical Products



Extracts from the Activities and Business Review as contained in the Directors' Report for the year ended 30th June 1983

	1983	1982
£	£	£
Trading profit	4,399,043	3,091,704
Income from shares in related companies	16,167	(65,275)
Net interest receivable and similar income	212,363	82,473
Profit before taxation	4,627,573	3,108,902
Taxation	2,130,109	1,445,492
Profit after taxation	2,497,464	1,663,410
Dividends per share (net)	17.00p	13.33p

\* Equivalent after allowing for scrip issue

The company can again report a busy year. In the home market the continued strength of the refurbishing market in housing stock has contributed substantially to the increase in activity of the company. Not only has this refurbishing involved our consumer units, but an increasing use of ELCB's (earth leakage circuit breakers) now known as RCD's (residual current devices) in domestic installations. In the industrial and commercial fields we are making steady progress with our distribution boards which is gratifying in a market that is not particularly buoyant.

The overseas activities of the group are concentrated in the Far East and Nigeria. In Malaysia, PDL-Wylex Sdn. Bhd., a related company, is now operating profitably and the premises have been extended to allow for the significant increase in the assembly of RCD's. To improve our representation in South East Asia we have appointed new selling agents in Malaysia, Singapore and Hong Kong. Our agents are Cipla companies of Gerard Industries Pty. Limited of Adelaide, thus increasing our liaison with that company. We are looking forward to increased penetration in these markets with a dynamic sales force.

Nigeria has, of course, been very disappointing due to its restrictions on imports and the introduction of licences. Now that the elections there are over we are hoping for an easing of these controls allowing a return to a more normal business scene.

Note: The accounts shown above for the years ended 30th June 1983 and 30th June 1982 are not full accounts. Full accounts on which the Auditors made unqualified reports, will be delivered in respect of the year ended 30th June 1983 and were delivered in respect of the year ended 30th June 1982, to the Registrar of Companies.

# General Accident

## NINE-MONTHS' RESULTS

The results for the nine months ended 30th September 1983 estimated and subject to audit, are compared below with those for the similar period in 1982, which are restated at 31st December 1982 rates of exchange; also shown are the actual results for the full year 1982.

It must be emphasised that the results for the interim period do not necessarily provide a reliable indication of those for the full year.

	9 Months to 30.9.83 Estimate £ millions	9 Months to 30.9.82 Estimate £ millions	Year 1982 Actual £ millions
Net written premiums - General Business	1,028.0	910.6	1,233.0
Investment Income	163.7	143.2	195.5
Underwriting Result - General Business	(111.7)	(111.5)	(153.8)
Long Term Insurance Profits	3.2	3.1	4.5
Loan Interest	45.2	34.8	46.2
Profit before tax and Minority Interests	1.2	1.2	1.7
Taxation	44.0	33.6	44.5
Minority Interests and Preference Dividend	3.4	1.7	(9.1)
Minority Interests and Preference Dividend	0.9	0.5	1.3
Net Profit attributable to Shareholders	39.7	31.4	52.3
Earnings per Ordinary Share	23.6p	18.8p	31.3p
Principal exchange rates used in converting overseas results			
USA	\$1.50	\$1.82	\$1.82
Canada	\$1.84	\$1.99	\$1.99

Net written premiums and investment income increased in sterling terms by 12.9% and 7.3% respectively. Adjusted to exclude the effects of currency fluctuations, the increases were 9.6% and 5.0% respectively.

In the third quarter there was an underwriting loss of £12.8m (1982 £11.9m loss) in the UK. There was a loss of £21.2m (1982 £8.4m loss) in the USA which includes losses amounting to £9.4m arising from Hurricane "Alicia". In the aggregate, other markets produced underwriting losses of £11.3m (1982 £4.1m loss) and the overall third quarter loss was £45.3m (1982 £24.4m loss). The pre-tax profit for the quarter amounted to £8.5m (1982 £27.1m).

For the nine months net premiums written in the UK amounted to £372m (1982 £350m) with an underwriting loss of £42.5m (1982 £52.6m loss). In the Motor account the underwriting loss for the quarter was £3.5m, only slightly better than last year and in the Homeowners account the underwriting loss deteriorated sharply to £3m making losses for the nine months of £14.9m (1982 £10.9m loss) and £9.1m (1982 £11.1m loss) respectively. The Industrial Fire and Traders accounts continued their modest improvement with a loss of £3.8m in the quarter and £10.8m for the period but the Liabilities account continued to deteriorate.

For the nine months, net premiums written in the United States totalled \$592m (1982 \$539m) with an operating ratio of 110.99% as compared with 109.35% for the same period in 1982. If the effect of "Alicia" is excluded, the ratio is reduced to 108.48%. On the United Kingdom basis the underwriting loss was £46.6m (1982 £32.8m loss). Although all major lines remain unprofitable, with the property accounts being particularly affected by "Alicia", there has been some improvement in private auto experience in third quarter.

Elsewhere for the nine months there were aggregate underwriting losses of £22.6m (1982 £26.1m loss). While most major territories continue to show improvement as compared with last year, recent trends in Canada and South Africa have been rather adverse. Experience in Ireland and from business written in the London market continues to be very unsatisfactory.

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**High rise rates**

The announcement of a development in Cornhill in the heart of the City of London, in which a rent of £45 per square foot is being asked, highlights the continuing attraction of the City and the demand for first class office space within it.

The asking rent of £45 per square foot - the highest price yet known - may be an exception, but it indicates the prices that can be commanded at the top end of the office rental market. The figure is for the banking areas of a 30,000 square foot banking headquarters being jointly developed by Airways Pension Fund Trustees and the Worshipful Company of Grocers at 68/73 Cornhill. For the office section an asking rent of £35 per square foot is being quoted by Jones Lang Wootton, Edward Erdman and Matthews Goodman and Fosterwhite.

This price reflects the quality of the development and its position in the inner core of the City, but overall the growth in office rents has slowed considerably during the last 12 months.

An assessment to this effect has just been published in a survey by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and the Institute of Actuaries. Even in the City, where rents have been keeping ahead of inflation, the rate of growth has dropped to just over 2 per cent, while in the West End of London rents are at a standstill. There has been little change in actual rental values for the last quarter, and in the City of London rents for air-conditioned buildings range from £16.50 to £31 per square foot on average.

This conclusion coincides with the publication of a detailed survey of office space in the City by Savills. In their City Office Demand Survey - London 1983, Savills show that demand continues in the inner core, which is bounded by London Wall, Fenchurch Street and Cannon Street and to the west extending almost to St Paul's Cathedral, but not so much in the outer zone.

The total amount of net usable floor space in the City is estimated at 40-45 million square feet, and it is believed that some 9 million is on the market. Of the total about 40 per cent is in pre-war buildings, 30 per cent was constructed between the war and 1968 and 30 per cent since 1968.

Savills say that the pre-war buildings in the main are capable of being adapted to modern technology, having massive structure and high ceilings, but the buildings constructed between the war and 1968 are mainly obsolete because this was a time when developers sought to squeeze the maximum number of floors within a given height.

"Much of the 13 million square feet built between 1969 and 1982 is of indifferent quality when compared with the high standards demanded by occupiers in the market today", they claim.

General figures indicate that the take up of office floor space in 1978 was almost double that of 1982, while 1983 shows signs of a partial recovery. It has particularly noted that there has been a distinct rise in demand since the general election, which suggests renewed confidence in the British economy and increased activity in the City. Office supply stands at its highest level since July 1977, giving more flexibility for the new and expanding businesses considering office space in the City.

It is interesting that there is a definite trend in the size of buildings towards larger units. Of all present and projected developments, 72 per cent are more than 20,000 square feet and 16.2 per cent between 10,000 and 20,000 square feet. Savills say that the latter will almost certainly be aimed at single lettings, while the former will tend to be multi-tenanted.

Another facet of the take-up is to establish who is moving into the area, and in view of the price asked for the new Cornhill banking headquarters it is perhaps not surprising that banking emerges as the leading growth area in terms of total new space occupied. British and foreign banks have taken more than 30 per cent of the new floor space and almost doubled their take-up over 1982.

But while British banks appear to be more willing to move away from the central area, foreign banks - other than the large American banks - are more concerned with the prestige of a central address and are prepared to pay the higher rents required.

Savills' main conclusion from this detailed and comprehensive survey is that the City continues to attract the financial community as a world trading centre, but that there is now a greater demand for economical, highly efficient, flexible office space than has been evident for some five years.

Certainly the bordering boroughs, with the exception of Westminster, are proving unacceptable because of excessive and uncertain rate increases.

The survey detects renewed interest in traditional buildings that can incorporate larger floors and accommodate communications technology as occupiers move away from the image of glass clad boxes.

Savills' prediction for 1984: "Demand and consequently rents will fall for the fringe 1960s buildings and many tenants may find themselves locked in."

"Conversely, rents and demand will rise for the best buildings particularly those located in the inner core."

An obvious, but inevitable conclusion.

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Applicants must be willing to acquire a sufficient working knowledge of the Dutch language - within two years.

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Current research activities are concentrated now on two specialisms

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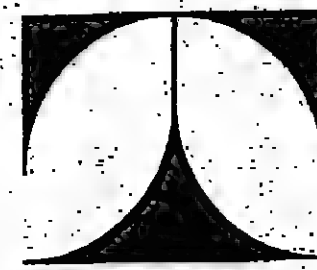
The appointee is expected to extend his own research specialism in collaboration with the present staff.

Gross salary depends on age and experience and ranges from Dfl. 6561,- to Dfl. 9283,- per month (Dutch Civil Servants Code).

Applicants are requested to send a detailed resume with a list of publications and the names of three references to the Chairman of the Search Committee, dr. P. van Emde Boas, Dept. of Mathematics and Computer Science, University of Amsterdam, Roetersstraat 15, 1018 WB Amsterdam, The Netherlands, quoting number 7168, telephone 020 - 522 3063/522 3065.

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The Personnel Office

We are West, 487 Colindale Road, London NW9 6SE.

Closing date for applications - 25th November, 1983.

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## New look at use of pill for children

By Nicholas Timmins

The Government is to review its advice to doctors that the pill and other contraceptives may be prescribed to girls aged under 16 without their parents' knowledge.

The review, the second in three years, comes after a growing campaign backed by MPs for a change in the advice, but Mr Kenneth Clarke, Minister for Health, said yesterday that it would not be carried out until the Court of Appeal has ruled on Mrs Victoria Gillick's attempt to have the present advice declared unlawful.

In a written answer to Mr Harry Greenwood, Conservative MP for Ealing, North, Mr Clarke said the present guidance did emphasize the importance of obtaining parental consent in almost all cases and added that it would be most unusual for doctors to provide contraceptive advice without parental consent for children under 16.

More than 200 MPs have presented petitions to ministers recently asking that parents be given the legal right to be consulted, and there has been anger about allegations in a court case that a girl aged 10 was put on the pill, although the Brook Advisory Centre which advised the girl says she was in fact 13 when she approached them.

The advice was last reviewed in 1980 by Dr Gerard Vaughan, then advice to doctors emerged largely unchanged.

Mr Greenwood said last night he was delighted at the news. "I hope that after the review it will be obligatory for doctors to consult the parents".



Mrs Victoria Gillick: Legal battle



Musical pairs: Four of the sixty young musicians from seven south London schools who practised with members of the London Symphony Orchestra's brass and woodwind sections in Brompton yesterday. They later went to the LSO concert at the Festival Hall. (Photographs: Brian Harris).

## Britain to stand firm on EEC contribution

From Ian Murray, Athens

Britain went into tough negotiations on reform of the EEC in Athens last night determined to reject any new ideas for calculating its contributions to the Community budget.

Despite increasingly frantic pressure on Britain to give way by the European Commission and other member states, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, was under strict orders from Mrs Margaret Thatcher to make no concessions whatever which might compromise her negotiating position in the European Summit in Athens next month.

The present three-day meetings of foreign, farm and finance ministers which began last night, have been billed as the last possible occasion for bridging the huge remaining gaps between member states on essential reforms. But the British position in the negotiations, which have now occupied six full days over the past five months, has never altered. Despite a growing pile of documents and counter proposals on the table, Sir Geoffrey has never been tempted to change his initial negotiating stance.

He is therefore determined to reject out of hand the latest proposal by the Commission for calculating the size of Britain's budget contribution, which seeks effectively to reduce its apparent size by more than a half.

According to a Foreign Office spokesman in Athens last night: "It simply will not run. It is a false line of argument and our advice to the others is to put it on one side."

The spokesman said that the proposal was disappointing because of Britain's implacable stand, other delegations were last night showing signs of frustration and annoyance. The West German delegation was digesting Mrs Thatcher's message earlier in the day in Bonn that Britain would accept nothing less than a deal which would ensure it paid a net contribution of no more than one-third the amount it was expected to pay at the moment.

Mr Grigorios Varfis, the Greek minister presiding at the meeting, gave a warning that "decomposition will set in if the summit does not take its decisions".

But the British strategy now seems clear. It is determined to push the whole argument on to the summit so that Mrs Thatcher can once more engage in the tough strong-arm tactics which have served her so well.

Leading article, page 13

## US patrol pinpoints Syrian guns

Continued from page 1

Marines, because they could see the flame at the tail of the rockets as they travelled from Dhour Abadiye across the Alek hills and exploded round the airport.

There is not proof that either the Syrians or the Druze have anything to do with the bombing of the Marines or the Druze had anything to do with the bombing of the Marines' headquarters, but Syria, which called up its reservists two days ago, is reported to have moved field guns onto the eastern slopes of Mount Lebanon in case of an attack on its Army.

Syrian troops are still deeply involved in the fighting round the northern Lebanese city of Tripoli where Mr Yasser Arafat, official leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation said yesterday that he and his encircled guerrillas had received no response to his offer on Tuesday of a truce.

Shells from Palestinian dissidents and Syrian artillery batteries continued to explode yesterday across Tripoli while the Kuwaiti Foreign Minister suggested in Damascus that an agreement for a ceasefire in Tripoli had been worked out by the Gulf states.

Leading article and Letters, page 13

## Two-day deadline to stop blacking

Continued from page 1

acting in furtherance of a trade dispute with its members' employer, British Telecom, because it feared that many jobs would be lost if Mercury was allowed to take advantage of the state telecommunications system and "cream off" profitable business traffic.

That defence has now been removed. Sir John concluded in his judgment that it was impossible to decide on the evidence that the risk to jobs was a large part of what the dispute was about.

In the full trial of the action, to be held early next year, Mercury will ask for a permanent injunction against the blacking of its interconnections with the state network, and damages from POEU funds. The Employment Act, 1982, limits the amount that can be awarded against the union to £250,000.

● The POEU executive's decision on what to do next will be relayed to a secret session of the union conference in Blackpool along with four other emergency motions (David Felton writes from Blackpool). One of the motions in effect calls on the POEU to defy the terms of the injunction.

Another emergency proposition from leaders of the union's moderate faction says that normal working should be resumed.

There are two other motions due to be discussed today during what will be the most crucial debate in the union's history.

The first instructs the union's left-wing executive to approach all TUC-affiliated unions for support, including financial support, in resisting "this attack on the right to take industrial action in defence of jobs".

The second asks for the support of railway unions to black the laying of Mercury cables alongside main railway lines.

Teh POEU executive, whose deliberations were taking place in a Blackpool hotel, was expected to be polarized along political lines in the debate over whether to abide by the injunction. Of its 23 members, four are regarded as hard left with close affinity to the Militant Tendency and ten are described as soft left.

The other nine are moderates and it was expected that the hard left would argue that the membership would feel let down if the executive did not vote to defy the injunction and continue the disruption of Mercury's operation.

System rejected, page 2  
Law Report, page 9  
Off the hook, page 12

Frank Johnson in the Commons

## The self-financed Thatchist Gummer

A Labour MP yesterday demanded an inquiry into the controversial leader of the extreme right-wing British Union of Thatchists.

Papers had revealed that, in his role as head of the Thatchist movement, Mr Gummer had received money from the British Government. The cash reached him in the form of a "salary" as Minister of State at the Department of Employment.

But really this was a "cover" for his real job as chairman of the Conservative Party, Mr David Winnick, the Labour MP for Walsall North and a prominent fighter against Thatchism, raised the matter with the Speaker on a point of order yesterday.

The historical background is as follows. Mr Gummer was a rabble-rousing orator who became leader of British Thatchism in succession to Mr Cecil Parkinson in September, 1983. The Thatchists had caused fear and tension, particularly in areas containing large numbers of immigrants, at two general elections, in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

Although he was believed not to share the views of some of his followers on such matters as race, Mr Gummer specialized in inflaming potentially violent audiences of middle-aged Conservative ladies with his demagogic speeches. His career reached its climax at the notorious Conservative Party conference of 1983 - a noisy and emotional rally held in the Winter Gardens, Blackpool.

It should be pointed out, however, that a lot of the hatred and violence associated with Thatchism was caused by the attacks on it launched by the extreme left. In a sense, the two ideologies were dependent on one another.

But Thatchism was always opposed by moderates and traditional Conservatives. Whitehall, and the Establishment in general, was thoroughly alarmed by it, and kept a close watch on its activities - even to the extent of infiltrating it with "wets" as Mr James Prior and Mr Peter Walker.

Indeed, there is a bizarre theory that Mr Gummer himself was one of those infiltrators, a man who was paid to do the dirty work of the establishment.

Yesterday, Mr Winnick in effect demanded full disclosure of all the papers for the period. He told the Speaker it was wrong that the chairman of the Conservative Party should have wound up that debate.

Mr Edward Heath, embodiment of the Establishment which Thatchism was sworn to overthrow.

There was even Establishment concern about Thatchist groups at elite schools, such as Stowe, Winchester and Grantham Comprehensive. It was also feared that the armed forces would be subverted by it.

Its supporters were believed to include such figures as Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Walter Bromley-Davenport, the influential military strategist, newspaper proprietors, such as Lord Rotherham, were at one stage strongly sympathetic and ensured that Thatchist views received favourable publicity. In an effort to win important people, Mr Gummer gave dinners at the Splendide, a restaurant in Blackpool. They were attended by such people as the writer Sir Alfred Sherman.

Mr Gummer long remained a hated figure. His notoriety reached a pitch last Tuesday night when, posing as "minister of state", he wound up the second reading of the Trade Union Bill. The measure intended to cut trade union funds going to Thatcherism's greatest enemy, the Labour Party.

Yesterday, Mr Winnick in effect demanded full disclosure of all the papers for the period. He told the Speaker it was wrong that the chairman of the Conservative Party should have wound up that debate.

"The Bill deals directly with the finances of the main Opposition party," he said, "and yet the Minister of State, as Tory Party chairman, spends much of his time helping to raise money for the Conservative Party."

That minister has, therefore, a particular interest in doing what he can to undermine the finances of the Labour Party. Members should constantly be on their guard against any practice which bordered on the corrupt.

He asked that the matter be looked into by the Committee of Privileges. The Speaker said that the Conservative Party chairman was "well known". That seemed to him to be "fairly apparent" on Tuesday night, he duly added.

So, the truth will probably never be known until all the information becomes available, which could be as far ahead as next week.

## THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

### Today's events

#### Royal engagements

Princess Anna, attends the Army Benevolent Fund Dinner at the Royal Artillery Mess at Woolwich, 7.30.  
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, visits the Field of Remembrance at St. Margaret's Church, Westminster, 11.55; and later attends the Golden Jubilee Reception of the National Advisory Centre on Careers for Women at the University of London Institute of Education, 4.30.

Princess Margaret, Colonel-in-Chief, Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, attends the annual cocktail party at the Royal Hospital, Chelsea, 6.30.

The Duke of Gloucester presents Structural Steel Design Awards on behalf of Constructional Steel Research and Development Organisation at a luncheon at Savoy Hotel, 12.30; and later attends a classical concert in Kensington Town Hall to mark 21st Anniversary of the Independence of Jamaica, 7.20.

The Duchess of Gloucester attends a concert given in aid of the Beethoven Fund for Deaf Children, Royal Festival Hall, 7.45.

### New books - paperback

The Library Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:  
Beyond Empires, autobiography 1928-1933, by Freya Stark (Century Travellers, £4.95)  
Easy Travel to Outer Planets, by Ted Mooney (Aries, £2.95)  
Edmund IV, by Charles Ross (Penguin, £2.50)  
Enemies of God, the Witch-hunt in Scotland, by Christina Larmer (Blackwell, £4.95)  
Me Again, the Uncollected Writings of Stevie Smith (Virago, £4.95)  
Moby-Dick, 1851-1977, by Alfred Fugard, edited by Mary Benson (Faber, £3.95)  
The Closing Chapter, by Lord Denning (Penguin, £2.50)  
The Panch Book of Kids, edited by Alan Coren (Robson, £2.95)  
The Limits of Liberty, American History 1607-1980, by Madsen J. Jones (Oxford, £12.95)  
They Called It Passchendaele, by Lyn Macdonald (Macmillan, £4.95)

### Weather

A southeasterly airstream covers the British Isles. Many places will be dry with bright or sunny periods.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E central, N England, East Angles, E Midlands: Dry, fog patches, cloud clearing, bright or sunny periods developing; wind SE light becoming moderate; max temp 15C (59F).  
Central S, NW England, W Midlands, Lake District: Mainly dry, bright or sunny periods, any fog patches soon dispersing, perhaps isolated showers; wind SE, light to moderate; max temp 14C (57F).  
Channel Islands, SW England, S, N Wales, Isle of Man: Rather cloudy, bright or sunny intervals, scattered showers, heavy in places; wind SE moderate or fresh; max temp 14C (57F).  
NE England, Borders, Edinburgh, Dumfries, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: Fog persisting on coasts, slowly dispersing inland, bright or sunny periods developing; wind SE light; max temp 10C (50F).  
SW Scotland, Argyll, Northern Ireland: Rather cloudy, bright or sunny intervals, scattered showers, heavy in places; wind SE moderate or fresh; max temp 12-14C (54-57F).  
Gloucestershire, Highlands, NW Scotland: Mainly dry, bright or sunny periods, any fog patches soon dispersing; wind SE moderate; max temp 14C (57F).  
Orkney, Shetland: Rather cloudy, some fog patches; wind SE light; max temp 10C (50F).  
Outlook for tomorrow and Saturday: Rain at times in W, mainly dry with overnight fog patches in E. Becoming colder in E.

NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars. Fronts warm, cold, occluded. Wind direction, speed and gust speed in mph. Cloud cover in eighths.



NOON TODAY

### High tides

TODAY	AM	PM	MT	HT
London Bridge	4.47	5.11	6.6	6.6
Aberdeen	4.27	4.7	6.2	6.2
Cardiff	4.10	4.4	6.0	6.0
Dumfries	4.10	4.4	6.0	6.0
Dundee	4.10	4.4	6.0	6.0
Glasgow	4.10	4.4	6.0	6.0
Harwich	4.10	4.4	6.0	6.0
Highland	4.10	4.4	6.0	6.0
London	4.10	4.4	6.0	6.0
Liverpool	4.10	4.4	6.0	6.0
Manchester	4.10	4.4	6.0	6.0
Northfleet	4.10	4.4	6.0	6.0
Portsmouth	4.10	4.4	6.0	6.0
Southampton	4.10	4.4	6.0	6.0
Swansea	4.10	4.4	6.0	6.0
Walsby-on-Haze	4.10	4.4	6.0	6.0

Times measured in metres: 1m=3.28084ft.

### Around Britain

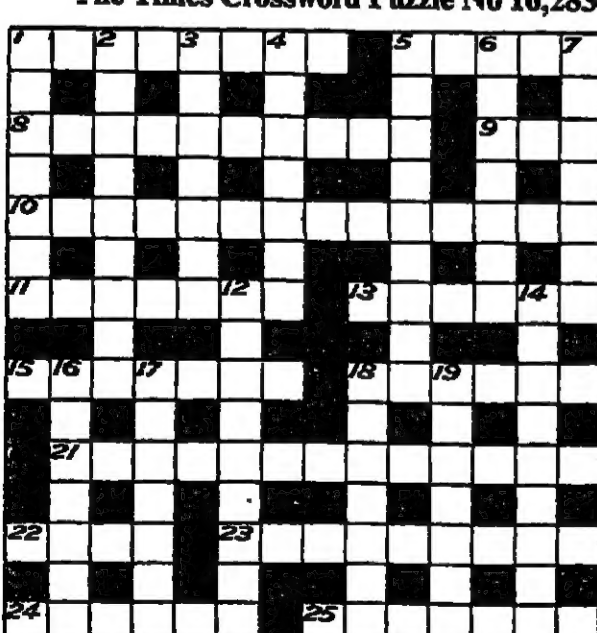
Station	Sun Rain	Mon Rain	Max	Min
London	2.5	14.5	57	57
Cardiff	2.5	14.5	57	57
Belfast	2.5	14.5	57	57
Edinburgh	2.5	14.5	57	57
Glasgow	2.5	14.5	57	57
Harwich	2.5	14.5	57	57
Highland	2.5	14.5	57	57
London	2.5	14.5	57	57
Liverpool	2.5	14.5	57	57
Manchester	2.5	14.5	57	57
Northfleet	2.5	14.5	57	57
Portsmouth	2.5	14.5	57	57
Southampton	2.5	14.5	57	57
Swansea	2.5	14.5	57	57
Walsby-on-Haze	2.5	14.5	57	57

Temperatures at 10.55 am. Wind direction, speed and gust speed in mph. Cloud cover in eighths.

### Abroad

City	Temp	Wind	Cloud
Algeria	19	15	5
Alexandria	24	15	5
Algiers	24	15	5
Amman	24	15	5
Antwerp	15	15	5
Athens	15	15	5
Batavia	24	15	5
Bombay	24	15	5
Buenos Aires	24	15	5
Calcutta	24	15	5
Cairo	24	15	5
Colon	24	15	5
Copenhagen	15	15	5
Dakar	24	15	5
Damascus	24	15	5
Delhi	24	15	5
Dhaka	24	15	5
Dublin	15	15	5
Frankfurt	15	15	5
Geneva	15	15	5
Hong Kong	24	15	5
London	15	15	5
Lyons	15	15	5
Madrid	24	15	5
Manila	24	15	5
Medan	24	15	5
Moscow	15	15	5
Mumbai	24	15	5
Nairobi	24	15	5
Paris	15	15	5
Peking	24	15	5
Rangoon	24	15	5
Rome	15	15	5
Singapore	24	15	5
Sourabaya	24	15	5
Taipei	24	15	5
Tokyo	15	15	5
Yokohama	15	15	5

### The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,283



### ACROSS

- Young James, pronounced expert, produces shoddy article (8).
- No prime part for the loud performer (6).
- Arena row when many put in body stimulant (10).
- North European circuit - sound idea (4).
- French dish, uncommonly dumb on line (fair enough) (8,6).
- Star of Old Glory, for instance? (7).
- Four speakers, said Professor Higgins (7).
- Blake is worried, getting the needle (7).
- Takes back summaries? (7).
- Amazingly short-lived, Kemp's dance to Norwich (4,4,6).
- You find many without said (4).
- Cloth may be so worn - but nappy, no (10).
- Listen to the endless cricket here (6).
- Unable to escape the labyrinth? How stupid! (8).

### DOWN

- Puffer, the Manx cat, has put on a little weight (7).
- Preserve or impair? Moliere's imaginary character (9).
- May walking races be won thus in succession? (7).

### Solution of Puzzle No 16,282



### Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Debates on Liberal SDP motions on employment opportunities for young people and on personal social services.

Lords (3): Prohibition of Female Circumcision Bill, second reading. Rent (Abolition of Control) Bill, second reading. Debate on steps to stimulate non-oil exports.

